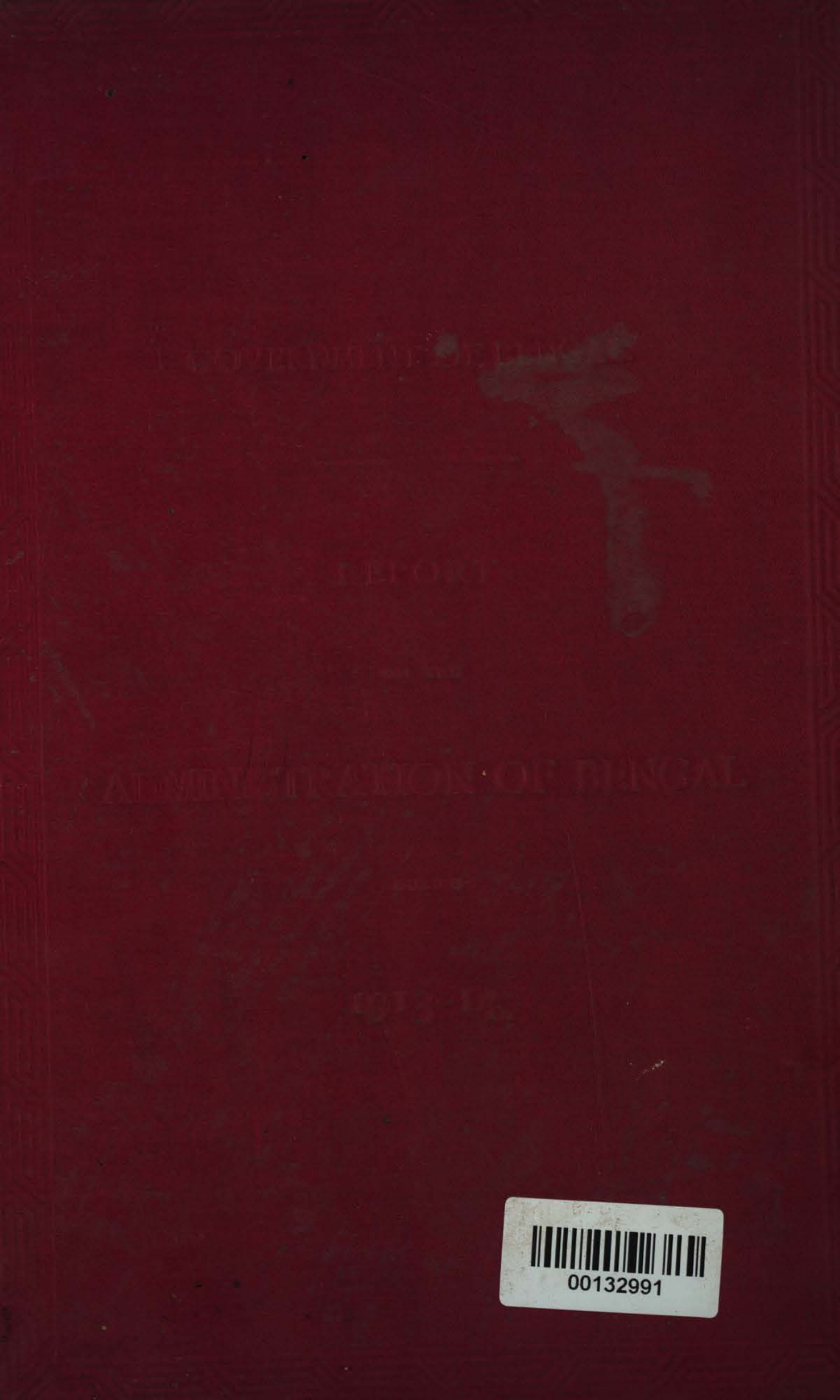
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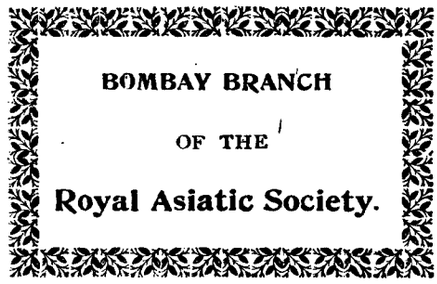

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REPORT

ON THE

ADMINISTRATION OF BENGAL,

1913-1914.

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PART I.

GENERAL SUMMARY.

SUMMARY.

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ADMINISTRATION OF BENGAL, 1913-1914.

PART I.—GENERAL SUMMARY.

CHAPTER I.

POLITICAL AND PHYSICAL GEOGRAPHY.

HEAD-QUARTERS OF GOVERNMENT AND TOURS OF HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR OF BENGAL, DURING THE YEAR 1913-14.

Head-quarters of Government.

During the year 1913-14, Darjeeling was the head-quarters of the Government in May and June and again from the 19th September to 9th November. His Excellency spent July and August and part of February in Dacca. For the rest of the year Calcutta was the seat of Government. He also spent a few days at Barrackpore in January and March.

His Excellency the Governor's tours.

2. In April His Excellency left Calcutta on the 9th, visited Cooch Behar and Kalimpong and the State of Sikkim, and reached Darjeeling on the 3rd of May. In the beginning of June he visited the cinchona plantation at Mungpoo. After spending a few days in Calcutta His Excellency left for Dacca by river on the 1st of July, travelling *viâ* the Sunderbans. From Dacca he visited Narayanganj, Munshiganj and Bhairab between the 14th and 17th July.

His Excellency visited Manikganj and Serajganj between the 11th and 14th August.

His Excellency paid a visit to Calcutta on August 23rd and presided at the meeting in connection with the Damodar Flood Relief Fund.

In September His Excellency visited Simla. He returned to Darjeeling on the 19th September, and visited Kurseong on the 18th of October.

Before returning to Calcutta for the cold weather His Excellency toured in Malda, Dinajpur, Rangpur, Cooch Behar and Bogra from the 10th to 19th November. At Dinajpur His Excellency presented a Kaiser-i-Hind Medal to Lieutenant-Colonel Peters, I.M.S., retired Civil Surgeon, Bengal, on the 13th and laid the foundation stone of the High English School on the 14th. At Cooch Behar an exchange of visits took place between His Excellency and His Highness the Maharaja Bahadur on the 17th, and on the same day His Excellency held a Durbar at which he installed His Highness Maharaja Jitendra Narayan Bhup Bahadur on the *Gadi* of the State of Cooch Behar. His Excellency arrived in Calcutta on the 20th November.

His Excellency visited Basirhat on the 5th December, and the Charanpur Colliery on the 23rd February 1914.

CHANGES IN THE ADMINISTRATION.

Bengal Secretariat.

3. To cope with the additional burden thrown on the Secretariat as a result of the reconstitution of the Board of Revenue, the appointments for a fourth Secretary and Under-Secretary to Government were sanctioned temporarily for two years.

TRIBUTARY STATES—COOCH BEHAR.

Succession of His Highness Maharaja Jitendra Narayan to the Chiefship of the Cooch Behar State.

4. His Highness Maharaja Raj Rajendra Narayan Bhup Bahadur of Cooch Behar died in England on the 1st September 1913, and was succeeded by his eldest surviving brother, His Highness Maharaja Jitendra Narayan Bhup Bahadur.

CONDITION OF THE PEOPLE.

Agricultura classes.

5. The condition of the cultivating classes during the past year was on the whole prosperous, especially in Eastern and Northern Bengal. Very high prices were obtained for jute, and the crop was not much below normal in those parts of the Presidency. Portions of the Burdwan Division however suffered severely from floods, and in some districts relief had to be given.

Wages and salaries.

6. The condition of the labouring classes was on the whole satisfactory. The wages of agricultural labourers show a tendency to rise, the highest wages being reported from Eastern Bengal. Labour had to be imported in the Burdwan district for work in mines, mills, railways and factories. Persons on fixed incomes or salaries suffered from the high prices of food-grains and other necessaries of life.

Floods in the Burdwan Division.

7. During the year unusually high floods occurred in the districts of Burdwan, Bankura, Birbhum, Howrah, Hooghly and Midnapore, causing serious loss of life and property and damage to standing crops, seedlings and houses. The total area affected by the floods in the six districts was about 1,200 square miles, with a population approaching a million. One hundred and twenty-five persons were drowned, and it is estimated that between 5,000 and 6,000 cattle were lost.

The District Officers took immediate steps to help the people by giving shelter, medical help, grain and money, and they were aided by local bodies and public spirited gentlemen. Funds were also placed by Government at the disposal of District Officers for gratuitous relief and for the grant of Agricultural loans; and arrangements were made for the distribution of food and clothing where necessary. From the outset special attention was in all districts paid to sanitary measures. Suspensions of revenue were also given in the Government and temporarily-settled estates in the flooded area and the Collectors of the districts were instructed to show the utmost leniency and moderation in enforcing the sale law in regard to the permanently-settled estates which had been affected by the floods.

CHAPTER II.

ADMINISTRATION OF THE LAND.

REALISATION OF THE REVENUE.

Revenue and Cesses.

8. There was an increase of Rs. 1,27,394 in the land revenue demand. As compared with the previous year there was a falling off in the collection both of the current and arrear demands, chiefly due to short collections in the Burdwan Division in consequence of the damage caused by the Damodar floods. The current demand of road and public works cesses showed an increase of Rs. 1,20,072 owing mainly to valuations and revaluations. The percentage of collections, however, fell from 101·4 to 100·2.

Management of the Hastings Government Estate in the District of the 24-Parganas.

9. In 1910 a Committee consisting of both civil and military officers was appointed to formulate definite proposals for defining the rights and status of the owners of residential buildings in the Hastings Government Estate, and for the improvement of its sanitary conditions. On the report of the Committee it has been decided, with the approval of the Government of India, that the existing tenants on the estate shall be offered leases for 30 years at such rates of rent as may be found suitable, with the option of renewal at the end of that period, and subject to the condition that Government shall be entitled at any time to resume the lands on payment of compensation for the buildings only and that the existing control of Government over the erection of buildings shall be maintained. It has also been decided to resume the *basti* areas in the estate with a view to their reclamation and restoration to a sanitary condition.

Under arrangements sanctioned in 1873, an annual assignment of Rs. 4,772 out of the rents of the Hastings Government Estate is made by Government to the Calcutta Corporation for sanitary improvements. The advisability of continuing this assignment was considered, and the Government of India have agreed that there is at present no necessity for making any modification in the existing arrangement.

Mining rules.

10. The Government of India have prescribed revised rules for regulating the grant of licenses to prospect for minerals and of mining leases in British India, and have ordered that these rules should also apply, subject to certain restrictions, to the grant of dredging licenses and leases. The Bengal Government in consultation with the Government of Bihar and Orissa, are considering certain details regarding the rates and fees to be charged under the rules.

SURVEYS.

Programme of Survey and Settlement operations in Bengal.

11. The territorial changes introduced on the 1st April 1912 necessitated a revision of the programme of survey and settlement operations in Bengal. A revised programme was accordingly framed in

consultation with the Divisional Commissioners, the Director of Land Records, and the Director of Surveys. According to this programme the traverse survey of 36,800 square miles comprised in 19 unsurveyed districts will be completed by the year 1926-27. It is desirable that the survey of the *diaras* of the Ganges, the Padma and the Brahmaputra should be completed as early as possible. It has therefore been arranged that the parties working in the districts of Mymensingh and Rajshahi will take up the whole of the *diara* area and complete the traverse survey in the year 1916-17.

Arrangements for Survey work.

12. The survey operations of Eastern and Western Bengal having been brought under the control of the Director of Surveys, Bengal and Assam, a change in the internal organisation of the Department was rendered necessary. The four traverse sections, which had previously been under the direct control of the Director of Surveys, were amalgamated into a single Traverse Party in charge of a senior officer of the Provincial Service of the Survey of India, and for miscellaneous work unconnected with district surveys and records-of-rights, a Miscellaneous Traverse and Survey section, with an officer of the Provincial Service of the Survey of India in charge, was created experimentally for two years. The survey of Calcutta and the adjoining areas continued to be dealt with by a special party, which will be gradually merged in the Miscellaneous Section.

Drawing office, Standard Mapping Section.

13. The old Bengal Drawing Office at Calcutta, including the Standard Mapping Section, having been made over to the Government of Bihar and Orissa, steps have been taken for the establishment of a Standard Mapping Section in the Drawing Office of this Presidency.

Survey school.

14. The Survey school mentioned in last year's report was opened in the Mainamati Hills about four miles from the town of Comilla in the district of Tippera on the 2nd January 1914, with Mr. C. S. Kraal, a retired officer of the Survey of India, as its Prinicipal. The full course of instruction extends over two years, but it is open to those who join the school to take the first year's course only. The shorter course is intended to train students for employment as district Kanungoes or as surveyors in wards' and ordinary private estates, while the two-years' course will qualify students for employment in the Provincial Survey Department or in any other form of land-surveying. The school started with 42 students.

LAND RECORDS AND SETTLEMENT.

Power of Local Government to sanction inception of proceedings for the settlement of land revenue, and to confirm such proceedings.

15. The powers of the local Government to sanction the inception and confirmation of proceedings for the re-settlement of land revenue were enhanced. Except in the case of Chittagong, the local Government are now competent to sanction re-settlement operations of all Government estates not held by proprietors in which the land revenue consists of rents settled under the Bengal Tenancy Act or any other tenancy law in force in the area, and of temporarily settled private estates when the area of the estates settled in one operation does not exceed 100 square miles. When the area exceeds that limit, the local Government may sanction re-settlement operations, provided the total

enhancement anticipated does not exceed 33 per cent. and the term of settlement does not exceed 30 years and is not less than that to which the tract has hitherto been accustomed. The confirmation of the Government of India to settlement proceedings is required only in cases where it has been necessary to obtain their sanction to the inception of the operations and where the conditions, if any, on which the sanction has been given, have not been observed.

Partition work in conjunction with Settlement proceedings.

16. The working of the scheme, experimentally sanctioned by the late Government of Eastern Bengal and Assam, for carrying out partitions under Act V (B. C.) of 1897 through the agency of the Settlement Department, was further examined. It was found that the difficulties and delays caused by the procedure of the existing law of partition seriously retarded the completion of the record-of-rights and its final publication and thereby caused an increase of cost. It has therefore been decided that no further partition work will be undertaken by the Settlement Department until the defects in the present law are removed.

WARDS' AND ATTACHED ESTATES.

Number of Estates and general remarks.

17. Fifty-nine estates were under the management of the Court during the year, but two were released towards the close of the year. The percentage of collections on current demand was 99·9 against 106·1 in the previous year. The fall in the percentage of collections was partly due to the heavy floods in the Burdwan Division and the consequent failure of crops over large tracts. The percentage of the cost of management on the current rent and cess demand for the whole Province was 12·6 against 12·1 in the previous year, the standard of 10 per cent. being exceeded in all the divisions. Schemes for the demonstration of agricultural improvements in three of the estates have been formulated in consultation with the Agricultural Department, while attempts to popularise improved methods of agriculture are being made in several other estates. The education of the Wards was generally satisfactory.

Training of minor wards in survey and settlement work.

18. During the year the Government of Bengal approved a proposal made by the Board of Revenue to give minors under the Court of Wards some training in survey and settlement work before their estates are released by permitting them to attend the camp which is arranged every year by the Director of Land Records for the training of young civilians and other officers. Two wards attended the camp held during the field season of 1913-14.

Delegation of revenue functions to Sub-divisional Officers in respect of Wards' Estates.

19. The Royal Commission on Decentralisation made certain recommendations for the delegation of revenue functions to Sub-divisional Officers, and the question so far as it related to the management of Wards' Estates was considered by the Government of Bengal in consultation with the Board of Revenue. It was decided that no general devolution of the powers of the Court of Wards to Sub-divisional Officers was practicable, and that no powers of the Court of Wards should be delegated in large and important estates. Devolution should usually be confined to small estates situated almost wholly within a single

Sub-division, every case being dealt with according to the peculiar circumstances of the estate and the Sub-division. It was also decided that Sub-divisional Officers should as a part of their duties inspect all *tahsil* offices in their Sub-divisions which appertain to Wards' Estates and check the receipts for rent held by the tenants, and that they might be employed in making enquiries into various local matters in connection with the estates.

REVENUE AND RENT PAYING CLASSES.

Working of the Bengal Tenancy Act.

20. Nothing noteworthy has been reported in regard to the working of the Bengal Tenancy Act; but, except in areas for which a record-of-rights has been prepared, it is doubtful whether the importance of some of its main provisions is realized by the landlords and tenants. For example, the levy of *abwabs* and other illegal exactions in addition to the rent is notoriously common throughout the Presidency, but no suit under section 75 of the Act was instituted during the year in respect of such exactions.

There was an increase in the number of rent money-orders issued and in the amount covered by them. The percentage of money-orders refused by landlords fell from 25·1 in the preceding year to 20·3 during the year under report.

Amendment of the Bengal Tenancy Act—Transfer of an occupancy holding without the landlord's consent.

21. The High Court drew the attention of the Bengal Government to the existing uncertainty as to the effect under the Bengal Tenancy Act, 1885, of the transfer of an occupancy holding without the landlord's consent, owing to diverse findings of the Civil Courts. The question involved being one of policy rather than of law, the desirability of amending the Act was taken up by the Bengal Government. A draft bill has been prepared and circulated for opinion to the various Associations interested and to officers of Government.

CHAPTER III.

PROTECTION.

LEGISLATION.

Acts passed.

22. During the year 1913-14 five Acts (No. IV of 1913 and Nos. I, II, III and IV of 1914) were passed by the Bengal Legislative Council and became law. Of these, the more important Acts are Bengal Act IV of 1913 (The Bengal Public Demands Recovery Act, 1913) and Bengal Act IV of 1914 [The Calcutta Municipal (Loans) Act, 1914]. Each Act is further discussed under the head "Course of Legislation" in Part II of this Report.

POLICE.

Chaukidari Circle officers.

23. To provide an agency for the development of the *panchayat* system an addition of forty temporary appointments to the cadre of

Sub-Deputy Collectors in Bengal was sanctioned. Fourteen Sub-Deputy Collectors were appointed and the remainder will be recruited during the next two years.

Training school for the Calcutta Police.

24. Orders were passed during the year for the establishment of a school at the Dullunda buildings for the training of the recruits of the Calcutta Police, and funds have been provided in the budget of 1914-1915. The buildings in question have since been vacated by the Forms Department and the school will shortly be opened.

Division of the Calcutta Police Courts.

25. To remove the serious physical congestion of the Police Courts at Lal Bazar two other Courts were opened, one in the northern and the other in the southern portion of the town. The northern Court has been located in a part of the old Duff College building and the southern Court in a rented house in the neighbourhood of the Park Street thana. Since the close of the year the Central Court at Lal Bazar has also been removed to a more suitable building in Bankshall Street.

Political Crime.

26. The anarchist group continued its activities against the Police. Two zealous Police officers were murdered; one was shot in College Square, Calcutta, and on the following day, an Inspector was killed by a bomb in Mymensingh. No clue was found in either case. Two persons, who had helped or were suspected of helping the Police in tracking down political offenders, were also murdered. Seditious literature continued to be circulated during the year.

CRIMINAL JUSTICE.

Work of the year.

27. A general increase over the figures of the previous year occurred in the criminal work disposed of by the lower Courts both in the Presidency town and in the mufassal. In the Presidency town, there was a large increase in the number of cases instituted under special and local laws. There was an increase in the disposal of original and appellate work by the Sessions Courts, as also in the number of appeals and revision cases decided by the High Court. In Bakarganj, 38 persons were under trial for offences against the State. Of these, 12 were acquitted and 26 remained under trial at the close of the year.

Special Bench, High Court.

28. Two cases were tried by the Special Bench of the High Court during the year under review. In one case the Bengal Government instituted proceedings for contempt of Court against the Editor, Printer and Publisher of the "Amrita Bazar Patrika", a newspaper printed and published in Calcutta. The other was an appeal filed against the order of Government forfeiting a pamphlet entitled "Come over into Macedonia and help us." The former case was dismissed with costs against Government, but in the latter case the application to set aside the order of Government was dismissed without costs.

JAILS.

Prisoners' Aid Society.

29. Government have continued to take an active interest in furthering the objects of the Prisoners' Aid Society and have made a grant of Rs. 26,900 for the purchase from the Corporation of Calcutta of a plot

of land measuring one *bigha* and three *cottahs*. The land is to be used for the erection by the Society of suitable buildings, and Government have made a further contribution of Rs. 500 towards the building fund.

Transfer of the old Presidency Jail to the Trustees of the Victoria Memorial Hall.

30. The old Presidency Jail on the maidan was closed on the 30th October 1913, and the charge of the buildings made over to the Trustees of the Victoria Memorial Hall.

CIVIL JUSTICE.

Work of the year.

31. In the year 1913 the number of original suits instituted in Courts subordinate to the High Court declined; but, owing to the heavy arrears outstanding from the previous year, the total number of suits for disposal increased. There was at the same time an increase in the number of suits decided. In appellate work the outturn of these Courts declined, and in consequence arrears increased; not only in the total number but also in the number of suits pending for more than one year. On the Appellate Side of the High Court institutions exceeded those of 1912, but a substantial increase in the number of disposals led to a reduction in arrears.

REGISTRATION.

Reorganisation.

32. The proposals submitted last year for regrading the appointments of District Sub-Registrars and Sub-Registrars in the reconstituted province of Bengal were approved by the Secretary of State, and the cadres were adjusted accordingly. The allowance of probationers in the Registration Department was raised from Rs. 20 to Rs. 30 a month.

Allowance of Probationers.

Payment of commission to Ex-officio Sub-Registrars.

33. There are seven Registration offices in the Presidency where the work, not being sufficient for whole-time officers, is done by officers of other Departments of Government in addition to their ordinary duties. Five of these offices are held by members of the Indian Civil Service or of the Provincial and Subordinate Executive services who got a commission of 25 per cent. of the fees. The Government of India have decided that no commission should in future be paid to any member of these services for work done in connection with the Registration Department.

Departmental Examination.

34. The Inspector-General of Registration who had been examining probationers at some of his inspections of district offices found them generally deficient in their knowledge of the laws and rules relating to Registration. In order to secure efficiency, rules have been framed for examining departmentally all Probationers and Sub-Registrars appointed direct to the higher grades.

Ministerial Establishments.

35. A scheme for the revision of ministerial establishments in Registration offices at District head-quarters was submitted to the Government of India. That Government decided to defer passing orders on the scheme until they had received proposals for the revision of the establishments of Rural Registration offices. These are now under consideration.

36. The Secretary of State for India sanctioned the appointment of a whole-time officer, on a salary of Rs. 800—50—1,200, to be Registrar under the Indian Companies Act, 1913 (VII of 1913) and also under the Provident Insurance Societies Act, 1912 (V of 1912) and the Indian Life Assurance Companies Act, 1912 (VI of 1912). Mr. F. R. Corson, a Chartered Accountant, was appointed to the post.

Registrar under the Indian Companies Act, 1913, the Provident Insurance Societies Act, 1912 and the Indian Life Assurance Companies Act, 1912.

MUNICIPAL ADMINISTRATION AND LOCAL SELF-GOVERNMENT.

37. The rules for the management of water-works and for the preparation, submission and execution of projects for water-supply, sewerage or drainage by Municipal authorities were revised and circulated to all municipalities in the Province.

Revision of drainage and water-supply rules of Municipal authorities.

38. A set of rules was framed defining the duties of Sanitary Inspectors in the employ of Municipalities.

Rules defining the duties of Sanitary Inspectors.

39. The Secretary of State for India having sanctioned the surrender of the Public Works Cess to District Boards, the net proceeds from this Cess were surrendered with effect from the 1st April 1913. The transfer of the Cess for the year 1913-14 was made unconditionally, Government reserving the right to impose conditions in future.

Surrender of Public Works Cess to District Boards.

40. The Bengal Local Self-Government (Amendment) Act V of 1908, was extended with certain amendments to the Eastern Bengal districts under section 3 of the Bengal Laws Act, I of 1914. These amendments were at the same time extended to the rest of the Presidency.

Amendment of the Local Self-Government Act.

41. The District Board of Howrah requested Government to authorise expenditure towards the relief of those who suffered in the floods caused by the Damodar river under the provisions of section 99 of the Bengal Local Self-Government Act, III of 1885. This section, as amended by Act V of 1908 was accordingly extended to Howrah and to all other districts in the Province.

Extension of the amended provisions of section 99 of the Bengal Local Self Government Act to District Boards.

42. As a preliminary to the improvement of water-supply in rural areas, special Sub-Overseers were employed by District Boards at the expense of Government to enquire into the existing conditions.

Improvement of water-supply in rural areas.

43. The rules prescribing the qualifications of candidates for employment as Sanitary Inspectors by District Boards were revised and circulated to the various District Boards.

Rules regarding the qualifications of candidates for employment as Sanitary Inspectors by District Boards.

MARINE.

44. The income of the Calcutta Port Trust amounted to Rs. 1,51,28,435 and the expenditure to Rs. 1,56,61,451, resulting in a deficit of Rs. 5,33,016. The corresponding figures for income and expenditure in 1912-13 were Rs. 1,42,46,317 and Rs. 1,47,00,316 respectively. The Commissioners were authorised to raise a debenture loan of Rs. 70 lakhs bearing interest at a rate not exceeding 4 per cent. per annum and repayable in 30 years for expenditure on capital works estimated to cost Rs. 69,92,604. The capital debt at the end of the year stood at Rs. 10,64,71,166, against which the Commissioners hold properties valued at Rs. 12,07,34,832.

Calcutta Port Trust.

A special Committee was convened by the Commissioners to consider the question of lighting the River Hughli with a view to its navigation at night. The Committee, with whom the Commissioners agreed, recommended, in the first instance, the lighting of the channels between Mud Point and Saugor for the above purpose. The scheme was sanctioned by Government on condition that the actual arrangements for lighting were fully tested and found to be satisfactory.

A Committee was appointed by Government to investigate the question of the general policy to be adopted for the development of the Port of Calcutta and the transport and all other facilities connected therewith. The report of the Committee is under consideration.

The number of vessels entering the port during the year was 1,649. representing a gross tonnage of 6,926,817 as compared with 1,730 vessels in 1912-13, representing a tonnage of 7,074,530.

Agency for Government Consignments.

45. The adoption of the revised rates to be charged by the Agent for Government Consignments for the landing, delivery and shipment of stores for Government Departments and *quasi*-Government bodies was sanctioned by the Government of India.

CHAPTER IV.

PRODUCTION AND DISTRIBUTION.

AGRICULTURE.

Improvement of Jute Forecast.

46. The Jute Forecast Committee of the Bengal Chamber of Commerce expressed their desire to discuss with Government certain measures for improving the Jute Forecast. Accordingly, two Conferences were held during the year, and on the lines of the suggestions made at these conferences, rough schemes were drawn up for the employment of a special staff for the collection of more accurate information regarding the area under jute and the outturn. On various considerations, however, these schemes were ultimately abandoned. The general consensus of opinion among all sections of the trade was that the system, introduced in 1912 as an experimental measure, of collecting returns of the area under jute in each union through the agency of the *panchayats* should be developed on the existing lines, and it was decided that the forecast should be prepared accordingly, but that efforts should be made to improve and perfect the system so far as funds and staff permit.

Sericulture.

47. With a view to arresting the decline of the silk industry in Bengal a scheme for the supply of pure seed to cocoon-rearers was drawn up by the Bengal Silk Committee, and the measures proposed were generally approved by Government during the year The object is to establish gradually throughout the silk districts a number of central nurseries, with rearing houses built in groups, from which pure seed cocoons will be supplied under Government

supervision. The Director of Agriculture, Bengal, is now working out definite proposals on the subject for the sanction of Government.

Appointment of a Second Deputy Director of Agriculture.

48. Owing to the expansion of agricultural operations in Bengal, it was found impossible for one Deputy Director of Agriculture to cope with the work of the Department, and the sanction of the Secretary of State for India was accordingly obtained to the appointment of a Second Deputy Director of Agriculture for this Province. Steps are being taken to recruit a suitable officer in the Indian Agricultural Service to fill the post.

WEATHER AND CROPS.

Weather and crops.

49. The excessive rainfall in June caused great damage to the Jute crop, particularly in the Presidency and Burdwan Divisions, and the provincial outturn was only 84 per cent. of the normal. Conditions were also unfavourable for the other *bhadoi* crops, the yield being only 74 per cent. of the normal. The harvests of the winter rice and *rabi* crops were on the whole good.

CO-OPERATIVE SOCIETIES.

Use of remittance transfer receipts for remittances between Co-Operative Societies.

50. In view of the difficulties attending the transport of money in the mufassal, and in order to make it easier for central societies to issue loans to rural societies, the concession of the use of remittance transfer receipts at par for remittances with a minimum limit of Rs. 150 has hitherto been allowed to Co-Operative Credit Societies. During the year the Government of India decided to continue the concession and to extend it to non-credit societies. The payment of remittances at sub-treasuries has also been authorised in cases where arrangements can be made without undue trouble or extra expenditure.

FORESTS.

Constitution of the Jalapahar Cantonment in the district of Darjeeling as a Protected Forest.

51. The Jalapahar Cantonment in the district of Darjeeling was constituted into a protected forest during the year, under section 28 of the Indian Forest Act, VII of 1878. The object of this measure, which was adopted at the instance of the military authorities, is to reafforest the slopes below the Cantonment, which are within Cantonment limits, and to afford protection to planted trees and to natural growth by the prevention of grazing and of the illicit felling of timber. It is also desired to regulate quarrying.

Restriction of grazing in the reserved forests of Darjeeling.

52. In view of the increase of stall feeding and the consequent decline in the number of forest-grazed cattle, it was found possible to impose further restrictions on grazing in the reserved forests of Darjeeling. The grazing area south of the Little Rangit river was reduced from 12,630 acres to 8,008 acres and the maximum number of cattle permitted to be grazed was reduced to 533.

MANUFACTURES AND MINES.

Review of the year's work.

53. In spite of a decrease in the yield of jute, the prosperity of the jute industry continued to rise; the number of working mills increased by 4 and the daily average of employes by 16,000. A fresh record was attained in the value of the foreign exports of tea and the steady progress of the coal industry was maintained. The value of the iron ore produced in 1913 decreased slightly but was still well above the value of the output in 1911. There was no further decline in the sugar and silk industries.

WORKING OF THE INDIAN FACTORIES ACT.

Exemption under sec. 13 of the Indian Factories Act, XII of 1911.

54. The Chief Inspector of Factories, Bengal, exercised the power to exempt factories other than those situated within a municipal area from the obligation to provide latrine and urinal accommodation for the labourers under section 13 of the Indian Factories Act, XII of 1911.

Certifying Surgeon of Factories, Bengal.

55. Pending the final orders of the Secretary of State on the arrangements for the certification of children under the Indian Factories Act of 1911, the services of Captain J. C. Gillmon were retained temporarily as a whole-time Certifiying Surgeon of Factories in the immediate vicinity of Calcutta.

TRADE.

Foreign trade.

56. The value of the sea-borne trade (private merchandise only) of the Presidency of Bengal was Rs. 174·83 crores against Rs. 162·35 crores in 1912-13, an improvement of nearly 7·7 per cent. Of this total, the share of Calcutta was Rs. 168·59 crores against Rs. 155·96 crores in the preceding year. Both the grand total for the province and that for Calcutta constitute a record.

Imports.

57. Imports into Calcutta aggregated Rs. 70·69 crores, showing an expansion of 15 per cent. Each of the four classes (viz., I.—Food, drink and tobacco, II.—Raw materials and produce and articles mainly unmanufactured, III.—Articles wholly or mainly manufactured and IV.—Miscellaneous and unclassified) into which the sea-borne trade is classified for statistical purposes showed an increase. "Articles wholly or mainly manufactured" contributed 82 per cent. of the year's total, and accounted for 87 per cent. of the total increase of 9·34 crores. This increase was due to heavy imports of manufactures of iron and steel, railway materials, cotton goods, machinery of all kinds (especially jute machinery), hardware and cutlery, electrical instruments, and motor-cars and cycles. "Food, drink and tobacco" held the second place in point of value, representing 13·2 per cent. of the total imports, and 9·2 per cent. of the total increase. Sugar (Rs. 6·47 crores) represented 69·4 per cent. of the value of this class. Mineral oil accounted for the expansion of class II, the share of which was 3·9 per cent. of the total imports, and 3·4 per cent. of the total increase; the shares of class IV under these heads were ·7 per cent. and ·2 per cent. respectively. Of the

total imports, 71·2 per cent. came from the United Kingdom as compared with 72 per cent. in 1912-13. The shares of the other principal contributing countries were—Java 8·1, Germany 5·3, the United States of America 2·7, Japan 2·2, the Straits Settlements 1·9, Belgium and Austria-Hungary 1·6 per cent. each.

Exports.

58. The total value of exports from the Province was Rs. 102·75 crores, an advance of Rs. 2·59 crores or 2 6 per cent. Of this trade Calcutta claims about 95·3 per cent. Jute continued to be the dominant staple of the export trade, contributing 58 per cent., of the total. The United Kingdom was the best customer, taking 25·65 per cent. of the exports from Calcutta. The United States came second with 18·93 per cent., Germany third with 11·46 per cent. and South America and Austria-Hungary fourth and fifth with 4·6 and 4·06 per cent., respectively.

Trans-frontier trade.

59. The value of the trans-frontier trade (merchandise only) was Rs. 123 lakhs. Some 38 per cent. was with Sikkim, while the shares of Nepal, Tibet and Bhutan were 32, 26 and 4 per cent. respectively. The total trade with Sikkim amounted to Rs. 46 lakhs, of which imports into Bengal were valued at Rs. 30 lakhs. The trade with Nepal amounted to Rs. 39 lakhs. Imports from Tibet were valued at Rs. 18 lakhs, and exports to that country at Rs. 14 lakhs. The total trade with Bhutan amounted to Rs. 5 lakhs.

Coasting trade.

60. The value of the coasting trade of the Province, increased in volume but declined in value from Rs. 30·1 crores to Rs. 29·62 crores or by 1·6 per cent. Of this, 64·8 per cent. was with Burma, 7·9 per cent. with Madras, 16·6 per cent. with Bombay and Sind, and 1·4 per cent. with non-British ports. Imports improved through larger receipts of rice, mineral oil and teak wood; but the export trade in grain and pulse dropped enormously. Imports, valued at Rs. 15·35 crores, increased by 32·6 per cent.; while exports, standing at Rs. 14·26 crores, showed a shrinkage of 23 per cent.

Rail and river-borne trade.

61. The total value of the trade carried by rail and river was Rs. 220 crores as against Rs. 200 crores in 1912-13. Imports into Bengal, including Calcutta, from other provinces were valued at Rs. 58 crores as compared with Rs. 56 crores in the preceding year. Exports from Bengal, including Calcutta, to other provinces rose from Rs. 43·77 crores to Rs. 49·22 crores, an improvement of 12 per cent.

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT—ESTABLISHMENT.

Establishment.

62. To cope with the increasing work in the Consulting Architect's office, Bengal, an additional Assistant Architect was appointed by His Majesty's Secretary of State for India.

A Committee, consisting of a President and two members, was appointed in 1911 to consider the question of revising the pay and improving the prospects of the clerks and others in Public Works Department offices in Bengal. After some delay, due to the territorial changes in 1912, the proposals of the Committee were adopted with slight modifications and brought into force in March 1914.

Duars Roads Division.

63. In the Northern Circle a temporary Division, called the Duars Roads Division, was formed in December 1913, with headquarters at

Jalpaiguri, in connection with the improvement of old and the construction of new roads in the Duars.

BUILDINGS.

Imperial.

64. The most important Imperial works in progress during the year were the extension of the salt *golas* at Salkea and the Central Telegraph Office in Calcutta and the construction of the salt *golas* at Chittagong. The new Press buildings at No. 166 Dhurrumtollah Street were completed during the year.

Provincial.

65. The chief Provincial works completed or in progress were—

(1) Works in connection with Government House at Darjeeling.

(2) The office for the Commissioner of the Rajshahi Division at Jalpaiguri.

(3) In connection with Magistrates' and Collectors' Courts, the additions and alterations in the Collectorate at Barisal, and the extension of the Magistrate's Court at Krishnagar for the accommodation of the Police Office.

(4) In connection with Civil Courts, the additions and alterations in the Civil Court at Dubrajpur, and the new Civil Court at Bankura.

(5) Among Jail works, a new Press building for the Central Jail at Alipore and a building for the storage of forms in connection with this Press; the Civil Jail and the under-trial ward for 10 European prisoners in the New Presidency Jail, Calcutta; the reconstruction of the wards Nos. 5-7 in the Burdwan Jail; and additions and alterations in the District Jail at Comilla.

(6) For the Police Department, the reconstruction of the Sergeants' Barracks at Lal Bazar Police-station; additions and alterations in No. 4 Kyd Street, to suit the requirements of the Police Court, Southern Division, and in the Jorabagan thana to accommodate the Police Court, Northern Division; the Police buildings at Paikpara and Sibpur; the construction of buildings for the military police at Philkhana, Dacca; the construction of the Police buildings at Bloomfield Spur, Darjeeling; and works in connection with the Police Training School, Sarda.

(7) For the Education Department, the acquisition of land for the extension of the Presidency College, the Presidency College hostel, the hostel for the Metropolitan College and the hostel for the Ripon College; the construction of the Muhammadan hostel attached to the Hooghly College; the construction of the Faizunnessa Girls' School at Comilla; improvements and alterations in the Victoria Boys' School, Kurseong; sanitary works at the Dow Hill Girls' School, Kurseong; the Physical Laboratory of the Rajshahi College; and the addition of a second storey to the hostel attached to the School of Engineering, Dacca.

(8) Among Medical works, the School of Tropical Medicine and Biological Laboratory, Medical College, Calcutta, which was started in January 1914; the construction of a new lecture theatre, a dissecting room and a composite building consisting of a *post-mortem* room, dead room and macerating room and servants' quarters in the compound of the Campbell Hospital at Sealdah; improvements in the In-door Dispensary, Medical College, Calcutta; and the construction of the Diphtheria Ward on the roof of the Medical College, Calcutta.

(9) Under Contribution Works, the construction of the Kanai Lal Seal's Dispensary and an operation room at the General Hospital, Howrah.

COMMUNICATIONS.

Communications.

66. The damage caused by the heavy flood of August 1913 to the Grand Trunk Road in the Burdwan district was repaired, and certain provincial roads were taken over by the Public Works Department from the agency of the District Board of Burdwan for efficient maintenance.

The widening of the last three miles of the Teesta Valley Road made progress, and the proposal to metal the Sukna-Adalpore Road was administratively approved.

Projects were sanctioned for the improvement of many of the roads in the Duars, and the metalling of a number of these was commenced.

The metalling of 4¾ miles of the Hilli-Balurghat Road was in progress, and the proposal for the construction of an iron bridge over the Hilli River was approved.

Detailed surveys were sanctioned to ascertain the cost of improving the roads from Faridpur to Jessore and from Dacca to Aircha.

The improvement of the Strand Road at Chittagong was continued.

MISCELLANEOUS PUBLIC IMPROVEMENTS.

Miscellaneous Public Improvements.

67. Quarters for Leadsmen Apprentices of the Bengal Pilot Service were constructed at Porabazar, Calcutta.

The Hooghly River Electric License, 1907, and the Coal-fields Electric License, 1909, were revoked owing to the failure of the licensees to fulfil the obligations imposed by their licenses.

Their former license having been revoked, the Municipal Commissioners of Darjeeling were granted a fresh license for the supply of electricity, for all purposes, to a more extended area including the cantonment limits of Ghoom, Jalapahar, Katapahar and Lebong.

The Belvedere gardens at Alipore were opened to the public.

The erosive action of the river Megna at Noakhali was carefully surveyed and watched during the year.

RAILWAYS.

Administration.

68. The important railway systems in Bengal are controlled by the Government of India, Railway Department (Railway Board). Six light railways are partially under the control of the Government of Bengal.

Mileage. 69. During the year 1913-14, 127·64 miles of railway were opened to traffic, bringing the total mileage open up to 2,722·57 miles.

Surveys. 70. Several surveys of new lines were completed during the year by the East Indian, Eastern Bengal State and Assam-Bengal Railways. Authority was also given by the Railway Board for the survey of several new projects.

Lines opened during the year. 71. The following important lines were opened during the year :—

(1) Barharwa-Azimganj-Katwa extension of the Hughli-Katwa Railway.

(2) Singhjani-Fulchari extension of the Eastern Bengal State Railway.

(3) Rajabhatkhawa-Dalsinghpara extension of the Eastern Bengal State Railway.

Lower Ganges Bridge. 72. Work on the Lower Ganges Bridge proceeded rapidly during the year. It is expected that the bridge will be opened early in the year 1915.

Light Railways. 73. The Jessore-Jhenidah Railway was opened for traffic during the year. Negotiations were in progress between the District Board of Nadia and Mr. W. A. Radice for the construction of a light railway between Krishnagar and the Jelinghi. Messrs. Martin & Co. submitted applications for the construction of (1) a light railway from Contai Road Station to Contai and (2) an extension of the Baraset-Basirhat Light Railway from Patipukur to Belgachia Tramway terminus. The proposal of the Bengal Provincial Railway Company for the construction of a branch of the line from Dasghara to Jamalpurganj was under consideration.

CANALS.

Major Works. 74. The Major Irrigation Works in Bengal are the Midnapore and Hijili Tidal Canals. The latter is for navigation only while the former provides for both irrigation and navigation. The area irrigated during the year was 80,179 acres as compared with 80,958 acres during the preceding year. The revenue from these two canals amounted to Rs. 2,46,372 as against Rs. 2,73,212 during the previous year. The decrease was chiefly in the Hijili Tidal Canal receipts and was due to the closure of the Canal for some time for silt clearance.

Minor Works. 75. The Minor Works for navigation are the Calcutta and Eastern Canals, the Madaripur Bhil Channel, a portion of the Orissa Coast Canal, the Nadia Rivers and the Gaighata and Baxi khals ; while the Eden Canal which is classed under this head is used for irrigation. The Utterbhag Lock which is nearing completion and is in connection with the Magra Hât Drainage Scheme is treated as a Minor Work for navigation. Training Works on the rivers Ganges, Dhaleswari and Buriganga are also classed under this head. The Capital outlay up to the end of the year on works under this class for which Capital Accounts are kept amounted to Rs. 1,17,99,449. The receipts for the year amounted to Rs. 5,27,179 as against Rs. 5,93,584 in the year 1912-13. The decrease occurred chiefly in the Calcutta and Eastern Canals and the Madaripur Bhil Channel and was due in the case of the former to

fluctuation of traffic caused by the partial failure of the Jute Crop, and in the latter case, to the silting up of the western approaches in the rains which prevented steamers from using the route as usual.

EMBANKMENTS AND DRAINAGE WORKS.

76. The expenditure on embankments was Rs. 7,41,984 and on drainage works Rs. 1,51,596 during the year. **Expenditure.**

CHAPTER V.

REVENUE AND FINANCE.

IMPERIAL FINANCE.

77. The Imperial receipts amounted to Rs. 9,04,20,041 against Rs. 10,67,34,701 and the charges to Rs. 97,81,567 against Rs. 92,22,630 in the previous year. The decrease in receipts was mainly due to the extinction of the opium trade with China and to reduction in the supply of this drug to other far Eastern countries such as the Straits Settlements, Hong-Kong and the Dutch East Indies. The increase in expenditure was due in great measure to the expansion of Survey and Settlement work, but partly also to heavy expenditure on repairs to embankments damaged by floods and to larger outlay on silt clearance. **Imperial Finance.**

EXCISE.

78. The principal feature of the Excise administration of the year 1913-14 was the extension of the system of consulting local opinion in excise matters. Hitherto, in the Burdwan and Presidency Divisions and in the district of Darjeeling, local committees consisting of both official and non-official members were formed annually in towns having a population of 20,000 and over to consider and advise the Collector on proposals regarding the number and situation of liquor-shops (country spirit, foreign liquor, *tari* and *pachwai*) to be licensed for the following year. In the Eastern Bengal districts such committees were only convened in the towns of Dacca, Chittagong and Narayanganj. During the year under report the system of advisory committees was extended to all municipalities within the Presidency irrespective of their population, and the proposals regarding the number and location of shops for the retail sale of all excisable articles (intoxicating drugs as well as liquor and opium) were submitted to them for their advice. For rural areas Local Boards were constituted Advisory Committees. A still further advance was made in the municipalities situated in the Calcutta excise district; licensing Boards were constituted on which the municipalities, the Civil authorities, the Temperance societies and the Excise authorities are directly represented and of which the Commissioner of the Presidency **Extension of the system of Excise Advisory Committees to all municipal areas within the Presidency of Bengal and the appointment of licensing Boards for the municipalities situated in the Calcutta District.**

Division is the president; and full powers, except that of granting licenses, were entrusted to these Boards.

Excise Administration in India.

79. The recent Temperance deputation to the Secretary of State in London and a similar deputation to His Excellency the Viceroy in Calcutta afforded a useful opportunity for reviewing the declarations of excise policy made by Government from time to time and of showing that, while divergent circumstances in different parts of the country may make it necessary to attain the desired end by different excise methods, there has never been any hesitation as to the end that is desired or the principles that must underlie every excise measure. The settled policy of Government is to minimise temptation to those who do not drink and to discourage excess amongst those who do; and to the furtherance of this policy all consideration of revenue must be absolutely subordinated. The Government of India issued orders indicating the following general measures which should be adopted to carry out this policy:—

(*a*) every effort should be made to suppress illicit methods of all kinds;

(*b*) in order to effect this, the excise staff should be utilised in directions calculated to maintain the closest supervision over the liquor and drug traffic;

(*c*) consumption should be discouraged as far as possible by the levy of a high rate of duty, by reducing the number of retail shops for the sale of liquor and drugs and by regulating and closely supervising the hours of sale, the selection of sites and the general practices adopted in manufacture and vend;

(*d*) Advisory Committees should be appointed and effect should be given to their recommendations in so far as they are consistent with the general principles laid down.

PROVINCIAL FINANCE.

Provincial Finance.

80. The Provincial receipts amounted to Rs. 6,22,15,000 and the charges to Rs. 6,17,31,000 against Rs. 7,16,53,000 and Rs. 5,69,48,000 respectively, in the preceding year. The decrease in receipts resulted partly from the suspension of collections of Land Revenue in Government Estates in Midnapore owing to the floods, but chiefly from the absence of non-recurring assignments by the Government of India for Education and Sanitation and from the surrender of the Public Works Cess to District Boards. The increase in expenditure was due to charges from special assignments for Education, Sanitation and Medical; to revision of the Sub-Judicial Service; to a rise in the dietary expenses of prisoners; to more extensive purchase of raw materials with a view to stimulate Jail industries; to the introduction of Police reforms; and to greater activity in the construction of new buildings for the Administration, Jails and Police Departments.

Raising of loans by Local Authorities by means of debentures.

81. During the year under review the Government of India directed that it should be permissible for a local authority to raise a loan under the Local Authorities Loans Act by means of debentures repayable at the option of the local authority, provided that the previous sanction of the Government of India is obtained.

LOCAL FINANCE.

82. The total receipts of Local Funds amounted to Rs. 1,24,77,585 and the charges to Rs. 1,02,06,111, leaving a closing balance of Rs. 57,36,607 against an opening balance of Rs. 31,65,133. The increase was chiefly in the District Funds, and was due to the surrender of the entire receipts on account of Public Works Cess from the commencement of the year. Four Union Committees in the districts of Bankura, Burdwan, Jessore and Nadia opened separate accounts at the local treasuries and became independent Local Funds. The Jalapahar Cantonment Hospital Fund was closed in May 1913. **Local Finance.**

CHAPTER VI.

VITAL STATISTICS AND MEDICAL SERVICE.

MEDICAL SERVICE.

83. The scheme for the establishment of a School of Tropical Medicine and Biological Laboratory in connection with the Medical College, Calcutta, was revised owing to the projected operations of the Improvement Trust which interfered with the site originally chosen. In order to fit the building into the space available it was decided to erect a three-storied building with a foundation strong enough to carry a fourth floor if future expansion should be necessary, in place of the two-storied building originally sanctioned by the Secretary of State for India. The total cost of the revised project as now sanctioned by the Secretary of State is estimated at Rs. 9,67,414, including the cost of land, furniture and equipment, but excluding the percentage for tools and establishment. The foundation-stone of the building was laid by His Excellency Lord Carmichael on the 24th February 1914; and by the end of the year under report good progress had been made by the Public Works Department in the work of constructing the building. **School of Tropical Medicine and Biological Laboratory.**

84. As a further step towards the growth of an independent medical profession in India, an honorary staff of one physician and one surgeon for in-patients with a definite number of beds allotted to each, and one honorary physician and one honorary surgeon for out-patients has been appointed at the Mayo and the Sambhu Nath Pandit Hospitals in Calcutta. The tenure of these appointments has been limited to two years and they are open to fully qualified Indian independent medical practitioners. Grants-in-aid have been made from Provincial Revenues to meet the cost of the necessary alterations in the buildings and the proper equipment of the Hospitals. **Growth of an Independent Medical Profession.**

85. The growing necessity for separate Wards in the Charitable Hospitals in Bengal for the treatment of phthisis patients has been under the consideration of Government, and grants-in-aid have been given from Provincial Revenues to several local bodies maintaining these hospitals for the construction of such Wards, the local bodies having **Construction of phthisis wards in Hospitals in Bengal.**

undertaken to meet the necessary recurring expenses involved in their up-keep.

Treatment of patients in dispensaries and hospitals.

86. The question of the abuse of the privilege of obtaining free medical treatment at Charitable Hospitals and Dispensaries by those who can afford to pay for their treatment has recently attracted considerable attention, and the Government of Bengal have been deterred from taking strong measures in the matter only by their desire to do nothing that might hinder the growth of popularity of European systems of medicine and treatment.

PREVENTION OF MALARIA.

Quinine.

87. The system of distributing quinine in "treatments" consisting of 20 four-grain tablets, which was tried for the last three years as an experimental measure in the three districts of Jessore, Nadia and Murshidabad in Western Bengal, was reported to have become popular. It was therefore extended to all the districts in Western Bengal in addition to the Eastern districts where it had already been introduced by the late Government of Eastern Bengal and Assam. Arrangements were made for the manufacture of the "treatments" at the Juvenile Jail at Alipore. The system of distributing pice-packets and 3⅓-grain tablets in Bengal was abolished. In consideration of the expense involved in the manufacture and distribution, the price at which each "treatment" is sold to the public was raised from three to four annas with effect from the 1st August 1913, vendor's commission being allowed at seven annas per parcel of ten "treatments."

A reserve stock of quinine equivalent to five years' consumption is maintained by Government at the Cinchona Factory.

EMIGRATION.

Amalgamation of the British Emigration Agencies at Calcutta.

88. At the end of the year 1913, the Emigration Agencies at Calcutta for Trinidad, Fiji and Jamaica were amalgamated with that for British Guiana, and a central emigration depôt was started at Benares. These measures were the outcome of the recommendations of Lord Sanderson's Committee on emigration from India to the Crown Colonies and Protectorates.

Enquiry into the condition of Indian labourers in Fiji and the West Indian Colonies.

89. Messrs. J. McNeil and Chimman Lal, who were deputed by the Government of India to enquire into the condition of the Indian Labourers in Fiji and the West Indian Colonies, submitted their report during the year. Many of their recommendations have since been carried out by the Governments of the Colonies concerned, while those that relate to Indian regulations have formed the subject of correspondence between the Government of India and Local Governments.

SANITATION.

Sanitary Service Scheme.

90. The Bengal Municipal (Sanitary Officers) Act (Bengal Act II of 1914) passed into law during the year under report. This Act enables Government to enforce the appointment of sanitary officers by Municipalities and to determine the qualifications of these officers. Steps are now being taken to give effect to the Act.

Sanitary Board.

91. The Sanitary Board was strengthened by the addition of three non-official members. At the same time rules were framed defining the functions and duties of the Sanitary Board and the Sanitary Engineer, Bengal. The Sanitary Board remained a purely advisory body. The Sanitary Engineer, whose executive functions had assumed importance, was declared to be the Head of a Department and was placed for purposes of discipline under the Secretary to Government in the Municipal Department. He continued to be the expert adviser of the Sanitary Board and the Local Government.

Pilgrimage to the Hedjaz.

92. The Government of India drew the attention of the Local Government to the large number of indigent Indian pilgrims in the Hedjaz stranded at Jeddah in 1912 on their return from the Haj, and recommended the formation of local committees to give advice to intending pilgrims and to raise funds for the relief of the destitute. Local Haj committees were accordingly appointed, and District officers were instructed to consult them before passing final orders on applications for passports.

Cholera statistics in rural areas.

93. With a view to obtaining correct statistics of cholera epidemics in the interior, instructions were issued to the effect that a statement showing the villages in which deaths from cholera had occurred and the number of these deaths should be appended to the monthly mortality return submitted by the police to the Medical officer of the district. These statements are to be forwarded to the District Magistrate for the information of the District Board and for its consideration in connection with expenditure on sanitary schemes.

CHAPTER VII.

INSTRUCTION.

EDUCATION.

Maintenance of a Register of applications for admission into Educational Institutions.

94. The attention of Government having been drawn to the difficulty experienced by students in obtaining admission into schools and colleges, a register of applications for admission was prescribed, and Principals and Head Masters were instructed to preserve all applications for one year.

Residential School for Indian boys.

95. The want of a suitable school for the sons of those who can afford to pay high fees has long been felt in Bengal. In February 1913 the heads of many of the leading families in Bengal memorialised Government for the establishment of a residential boys' school on the lines of an English Public School at some place outside Calcutta, Kurseong and Ranchi being suggested as possible sites. The Government of Bihar and Orissa was consulted, but the idea of establishing such a school outside the Province was abandoned owing to the difficulties attending such an undertaking. Enquiries were then made for a suitable site within the Presidency of Bengal; but, the result not being altogether

satisfactory, a suggestion was made that a school should be established on a temporary basis in the suburbs of Calcutta. Government accepted this proposal and have since worked out a detailed scheme to give effect to it. The Government of India have placed Hastings House, Alipore, at the disposal of this Government for this purpose for a period of 5 years, during which period it is hoped to raise funds for the permanent school, to secure a site for it outside Calcutta and to erect the necessary buildings.

Apportionment of Hostel expenses.

96. In 1902 the Government of India emphasised the advisability of ultimately making all Government hostels self-supporting. While recognising that the immediate attainment of this end was impossible the Government of India pointed out that the principle to be aimed at was to distribute among the students residing in a hostel all charges incurred in its maintenance as distinguished from those involved in establishing it. This ideal has since been kept in view but has been found impossible of attainment. Revised proposals regarding the apportionment of hostel charges were accordingly submitted to the Government of India during the year under report. These were to the effect that Government should bear all expenditure on the construction and repair of hostels, the whole cost of superintendence and three-fourths of the charges on account of medical attendance, while the inmates of the hostels should defray all other maintenance charges and one-fourth of those on account of medical attendance. These proposals were approved by the Government of India.

Teaching of Hygiene and Sanitation in High Schools.

97. In 1911 the Government of Bengal decided to introduce into all Government High Schools and first-grade training schools a system of lectures, illustrated by lantern slides, on hygiene and sanitation with special reference to malaria. Lanterns were procured from England and special slides prepared, but these preliminaries were not completed in time to introduce the scheme before the provinces were readjusted. The scheme was accordingly modified to suit the requirements of the Bengal Presidency and was brought into operation during the year under review. Three Assistant Surgeons were appointed to deliver lectures in Bengali on the basis of a synopsis specially prepared by the Sanitary Commissioner and in accordance with a definite tour programme. Calcutta and the Burdwan Division were assigned to one officer, the Presidency and Rajshahi Divisions to another and the Dacca and Chittagong Divisions to the third. The lectures were delivered between the months of September and March; a certain number of aided high schools were admitted to the benefits of the scheme, and parents and guardians of pupils were invited to attend the lectures up to the limit of seat accommodation.

Changes in the Rules regarding the Madrasah Title Examination.

98. The rule regulating the percentage of marks to be obtained in the Madrasah Title Examination to enable a candidate to qualify for a title was modified on the lines of the Sanskrit Title Examination rules.

Establishment of a Mining Institute.

99. A proposal for the establishment of an Institute of Mining and for the further expansion and development of the existing system of evening classes for mining at Asansol had for some time been under the consideration of the Bengal Government. The question of mining instruction in the colliery districts had also engaged the attention of the Government of Bihar and Orissa. The general conclusion arrived at was

that a single mining institute, located probably at Asansol or Dhanbaid, should be established for the two Provinces, and that the evening classes should at the same time be developed. It was, however, considered that, for a final and satisfactory determination of this question and for the preparation of a definite scheme, the assistance of a Joint Committee of the two Provinces was required. Such a Committee on which mining interests were largely represented, was appointed in October 1913. The Report of this Committee was submitted to Government in February 1914 and was under consideration at the close of the year.

Introduction in the Civil Engineering College, Sibpur, of a three years Overseer Course in the Mechanical and Electrical Branch.

100. The Overseer Course in the Mechanical and Electrical branch in the Civil Engineering College was modified by the exclusion of merely civil engineering subjects such as surveying, and the length of the course was reduced from 4 years to 3.

Art teaching.

101. The question of Art teaching in schools and colleges and the cultivation of the artistic sense engaged the attention of Government. In the year 1911, a Committee had been appointed as an experimental measure to advise the Director of Public Instruction, Bengal, on the selection of drawing books for use in schools and on any other matters touching on Art in which the Education Department is concerned. To increase its usefulness this Committee was enlarged and its functions were more clearly defined. It was reconstituted, for a period of two years in the first instance, under the name of the Art Advisory Committee and was strengthened by the addition to its members of the Vice-Principal of the School of Art and two members of the Art Gallery Committee. The duties assigned to the Committee were to advise the Director of Public Instruction as to the selection of drawing books for use in schools, the curricula for instruction in Art to be prescribed for schools, colleges and special institutions, and the general question of Art teaching in Bengal

Development of Sonthal Education.

102. The development of education among the Sonthals of Birbhum, Bankura and Midnapore engaged the attention of the Director of Public Instruction, who submitted to Government tentative proposals for the improvement of existing schools and the establishment of new schools for Sonthals, for strengthening the Sonthali Inspecting staff and for an increase in the number of scholarships reserved for Sonthali children. Government approved the proposals generally and asked the Director of Public Instruction to formulate a complete scheme on the lines suggested.

Education of Factory children.

103. The question of providing elementary education for children employed in factories was considered, and an officer of the Education Department was deputed to carry out a preliminary enquiry in the Mill areas and to submit a detailed scheme to Government in consultation with the Indian Jute Mills Association.

LITERATURE AND THE PRESS.

Bengal Library.

104. In quality and quantity the literature of the year shewed no falling off from the standard of previous years. Several creditable

works on history and fiction were produced, but the few biographies published were of no special merit. The volume of religious literature was as usual heavy; and among miscellaneous works the growth of *quasi*-historical publications on Bengali castes is noteworthy.

Press.

105. The most noticeable change in the tone of the Press was amongst the Muhammadan papers, both English and Vernacular. First the Turkish and Persian troubles, then the alleged Bulgarian atrocities, and finally the Cawnpore Mosque case led the Muhammadan papers to indulge in intemperate language.

CHAPTER VIII.

ARCHÆOLOGY.

Head-quarters of the Assistant Superintendent, Archæological Survey, Eastern Circle.

106. The head-quarters of the Superintendent, Archæological Survey, Eastern Circle, were transferred from Bankipur to Calcutta in the beginning of 1913. It was, however, decided that the headquarters of the Assistant Superintendent should remain at Bankipur.

CHAPTER IX.

MISCELLANEOUS.

Provincialisation of the pay of the superior officers of the Civil Veterinary Department.

107. The question of provincialising the salaries of officers of the Indian Civil Veterinary Department employed in different provinces without altering the existing system under which their recruitment, posting, transfer and promotion are controlled by the Government of India, was under consideration during the year. In order to compensate Local Governments for the extra expenditure that would be thrown on Provincial revenues by the change, the Government of India proposed to make recurring annual assignments equivalent to the total expenditure on account of the regular posts in the various provinces as at present distributed, and of the proportionate cost to the province of the leave reserve. Since the close of the year it has been decided to give effect to the proposal from the financial year 1914-15; and for the extra expenditure an annual recurring assignment of Rs. 29,307 has been made in the case of Bengal.

New procedure for the service of Foreign Processes.

108. During the year a new procedure was prescribed for the service of Foreign Processes, *i.e.*, processes sent for service from Courts or Offices other than those of the receiving Collector or Sub-divisional Officer. Such processes are now sent direct to Sub-divisions from issuing offices and not through the District headquarters, and when served they are returned direct to the issuing officers.

Visit to Calcutta of His Excellency the Viceroy

109. His Excellency the Viceroy and Governor-General of India, accompanied by Her Excellency the Lady Hardinge, arrived in Calcutta on the 23rd December. His Excellency held a Levee at Government

House on the 24th December which was followed by an informal investiture ceremony. His Excellency also received an address from the Corporation of Calcutta and from certain other public bodies and presided at the Convocation of the Calcutta University. Their Excellencies left Calcutta on the 29th December.

Concentration of troops at Dacca.

110. During the first half of January 1914, a force of British and Indian troops consisting of Cavalry, Infantry and Artillery, numbering about 5,000 in all, concentrated on Dacca. The troops moved there by rail, road and river from different directions through many districts of the Presidency. Manœuvres were held in the neighbourhood of Dacca for about one month and the troops gradually dispersed to their stations during the second half of February.

PART II.

THE REPORT

REPORT FOR THE YEAR 1913-1914.

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Map of Bengal.

ADMINISTRATION OF BENGAL, 1913-14.

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HISTORICAL SUMMARY.
FORM OF ADMINISTRATION.
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GENERAL ADMINISTRATION REPORT FOR 1911-12, PART II, PAGES 1—134.

Changes in the Administration.

Reconstitution of the Secretariat.

As a result of the changes introduced in the constitution of the Board of Revenue and the consequent transfer of a portion of its duties to other Departments of Government, the work in the Secretariat was readjusted; and, to cope with the additional burden falling on the headquarters staff, a fourth Secretary and Under-Secretary to Government were appointed provisionally for two years pending further investigation into the possibility of relief by increased delegation of powers to Commissioners and Heads of Departments.

Relations with Tributary States and Frontier Affairs.

COOCH BEHAR.

(Annual Administration Report of the Cooch Behar State for the year 1913-14.)

[*Area 1,307 square miles; Chief produce—rice, jute, tobacco; population, 593,052; military force, 173 men and 4 guns; annual revenue, Rs. 28,26,944; Ruling Chief—Maharaja Jitendra Narayan Bhup Bahadur; family, of Tibetan or Dravidian origin; residence, Cooch Behar.*]

Change in Chiefship.

2. His Highness Maharaja Raj Rajendra Narayan Bhup Bahadur of Cooch Behar died in England on the 1st September 1913, and was succeeded by his brother, His Highness Maharaja Jitendra Narayan Bhup Bahadur, who was installed at the headquarters of the State at a Durbar held by His Excellency the Governor of Bengal on the 17th November 1913.

The Council.

3. Maharaj Kumar Victor Nityendra Narayan was appointed an extraordinary Member of the State Council. On the executive side the State Council held 24 meetings against 33 of the previous year. His Highness

the late Maharaja Raj Rajendra Narayan Bhup Bahadur presided at 3 of these meetings, and His Highness Maharaja Jitendra Narayan Bhup Bahadur at 8. On the judicial side 20 meetings were held against 37 of the previous year; 27 appeals and motions, both Civil and Criminal, were disposed of. Two meetings of the Legislative Council were held during the year.

Marriage of Maharaj Kumar Jitendra Narayan.

4. The marriage of His Highness Maharaja Jitendra Narayan Bhup Bahadur, then Maharaj Kumar, with Maharaj Kumari Indira Devi of Baroda was celebrated in London on the 25th August 1913.

Exemption from attendance in Civil Courts.

5. Under the provisions of section 133 of the Code of Civil Procedure, 1908 (Act V of 1908), the Chief of the Cooch Behar State has been exempted from personal attendance in the Civil Courts as a hereditary privilege.

Visit of His Excellency the Governor.

6. His Excellency the Governor visited Cooch Behar in April 1913 and spent ten days in the State. His Excellency inspected the institutions of the State and laid the foundation stone of a female ward to be attached to the Cooch Behar Hospital. His Excellency again visited the State in November 1913 in connection with the installation of His Highness Maharaja Jitendra Narayan Bhup Bahadur.

State Railways.

7. The gross earnings of the Cooch Behar State Railways amounted to Rs. 3,00,374, thus showing an increase of Rs. 20,907, while the working expenses amounted to Rs. 1,36,566. The net earnings were 8·10 per cent. on the capital outlay against 7·78 of the previous year.

Finance.

8. The tetal revenue of the State amounted to Rs. 28,26,944 against Rs. 27,90,059 of the previous year, while the total expenditure increased from Rs. 26,19,720 to Rs. 29,31,408. The closing balance of the State fell from Rs. 15,54,019 to Rs. 15,17,562 inclusive of Government money, and of deposits amounting to Rs. 3,47,961.

Crops and condition of the people.

9. The rainfall was not evenly distributed. As a consequence the outturn of rice did not exceed 10 annas, while that of tobacco and jute was only 12 annas. As a result of the poor outturn of both the early and late paddy, the price of common rice rose very high. The people obtained good prices for their crops during the year and their condition was prosperous.

Criminal Justice.

10. The total number of cases reported during the year was 3,093 against 2,999 of the preceding year. The increase occurred chiefly in minor offences against person and property.

Education.

11. The Sub-Divisional Higher English schools not only maintained their high level of efficiency but made perceptible progress. The number of pupils attending such schools rose from 672 to 745. The total number of recognised Primary schools stood at 322 against 313 of the preceding year, while the number of girls' schools rose from 17 to 18. The Victoria College continued to make steady progress.

Public health.

12. The general health of the State was comparatively good. The campaign started last year for the purpose of improving the methods of vaccination has been attended with success. Only 17 cases of small-pox were reported during the year.

HILL TIPPERA.

[Administration Report of the Tippera State for the year 1913-14.]

[*Area 4,086 square miles ; population (1911) 229,613 ; revenne from State, Rs. 10,47,356 ; revenue from zamindari in British territory, Rs. 9,41,932 ; Military force, 214 men ; chief products, rice and cotton—Present Raja—Birendra Kishore Deb Barman Manikya; aged 31 years; family, Indo-Chinese ; caste, Kshatriya ; has male heir ; residence, Agartala.*]

Revenue and Finance.

13. The revenue of the State was affected by the failure of the cotton crop ; it amounted to Rs. 10,36,123 against Rs. 11,06,606 of the previous year, and Rs. 10,47,356, the average of the preceding five years. The gross receipts of the State and the attached zamindaris amounted to Rs. 20,57,552 ; and with refunds and deposits, the total amount was Rs. 26,58,214, the increase on the previous year being due chiefly to increased receipts from zamindaris. The total expenditure amounted to Rs. 20,56,363. As regards outstanding liabilities, three lakhs were due at the close of the year to the Bank of Bengal, while other liabilities are estimated at 4 lakhs.

Protection.

14. The total number of offences reported to the police was 725 against 814 of the preceding year. The number of persons arrested was 379 against 541, of whom 356 were sent up for trial; of this number 197 were convicted. The percentage of the recovery of stolen property was greater than in the previous year. Certain members of the State police received rewards from the British authorities for the arrest of some notorious dacoits from British India. The number of original criminal cases instituted during the year was less than in the previous year, the most noticeable decline being in "offences against the person."

Weather and Crops.

15. The rainfall of the year was above the normal, and floods were reported from certain divisions of the State. The heavy rains in the early part of the season hampered *jhum* cultivation, and both cotton and oil-seeds yielded poor harvests, while the outturn of *jhum* paddy was much below the normal. Rat-pest aggravated the situation and cattle disease was prevalent, specially towards the close of the year. The people of the plains were on the whole well-off, owing to high prices obtaining for food-grains. The hill people, however, fared very badly in consequence of the failure of *jhum* crops; they were assisted with advances and, where necessary, received gratuitous relief. The public health was on the whole fairly good throughout the year.

Condition of the people.

[Report on the Land Revenue Administration of Bengal for the year 1913-14.]

The agricultural classes.

16. The material condition of the people, especially of the cultivating and labouring classes, was not, on the whole, unsatisfactory, except in certain areas in which serious natural calamities occurred. The cultivating classes benefited by the high prices which ruled throughout the year.

Floods and distress.

17. The year will be long remembered for the great floods of the Damodar, Darkeshwar, Silai, Rupnarayan and certain other rivers in the Burdwan Division, by which many villages in Burdwan, Birbhum, Hooghly, Howrah and Midnapore were inundated. Local relief was immediately organised by Government officers in all parts affected by the floods and this was supplemented by voluntary agencies from outside. Loans and seedlings were given to the cultivators and within a short time after the floods the whole tract, with the exception of patches rendered unfit for cultivation by the deposit of sand and of a large waterlogged area in the Contai Sub-Division, was replanted and a fairly good harvest of winter paddy was secured. Considering the suddenness and immensity of the catastrophe the death-roll was not very heavy; nor did the destruction of crops tell so heavily on the people as the loss of their cattle and huts. In May 1914 a tornado passed over portions of the district and town of Dacca, causing damage to a number of villages; a sum of Rs. 9,301 was spent on gratuitous relief. Some slight damage was caused to the rice crop in Chittagong and Noakhali by floods and insects, but it was confined to a small area. Heavy floods in Cachar and Sylhet affected the *aus* crop in the north of Tippera, but the high prices of jute, of which there was a good outturn, amply compensated for the loss.

Wages and salaries.

18. There was a good demand for labour both skilled and unskilled, and the high wages which prevailed throughout the year compensated the labouring classes for dearness of grains, but the middle classes depending on small fixed incomes suffered from the high prices prevailing.

CHAPTER II.—ADMINISTRATION OF THE LAND.

Realization of the revenue.

(Report on the Land Revenue Administration of Bengal for the year 1913-14.)

Total collections.

19. The number of estates paying land revenue was 96,837, of which 91,604 were permanently-settled, 3,072 were temporarily-settled and 2,161 were held direct by Government. There was an increase of 166 estates over the total number of estates reported in the previous year, owing mainly to partitions of some permanently-settled estates and to the creation of new estates by resumptions and settlements. The current demands amounted to Rs. 2,71,19,560 as against Rs. 2,71,04,157 of the previous year. The increase was chiefly due to new settlements, resettlements and progressive increase of demands in regard to temporarily-settled and Government estates. As compared with the previous year the total collections (Rs. 2,67,16,990) showed a falling off, being 94·87 per cent. of the total and 98·52 per cent. of the current demands against 96·29 per cent. and 100·03 per cent. respectively in the previous year. These poor results were due mainly to short collections in the Burdwan Division in consequence of the damage caused by floods necessitating the suspension of revenue to the extent of Rs. 2,22,051. The bulk of the remissions (Rs. 54,510) was allowed in estates under the direct management of Government.

Collections in (a) permanently-settled estates.

20. The current demands in the permanently-settled estates amounted to Rs. 2,15,46,563 and the collections exceeded 99 per cent. of the demands in all districts except Midnapore, Jessore and Bakarganj, the deficiency in these districts being due to short payments made by two estates under the management of the Court of Wards.

(b) temporarily-settled estates.

21. In the temporarily-settled estates the total collections (Rs. 15,38,058) represented 96·85 per cent. of the current demands (Rs. 15,88,116). The prescribed standard of current collections was attained in all districts except Midnapore and Bakarganj. In the former district the collections were affected by the floods, and in the latter a sum of Rs. 1,26,000 out of the total balance of Rs. 1,40,516 had to be kept in revenue deposit pending disposal of a civil suit against Government.

(c) Estates held direct by Government.

22. The current demands of the estates held direct by Government were Rs. 39,84,881 and the total collections (Rs. 36,46,953) represented 77·40 per cent. of the total and 91·52 per cent. of the current demands against 84·64 and 100·91 per cent., respectively, in the previous year. In Midnapore the *khas mahal* tenants of Contai failed to pay their rents on account of the floods and the outstanding balance of the district amounted to Rs. 4,79,963. The balances were also large in Chittagong (Rs. 2,00,158) and the 24-Parganas (Rs. 1,05,710). In the former district the short collections were due chiefly to the fact that more than half the annual current demand falls due in the May and June *kists* at the end of the current Revenue year and is generally realized in the following Revenue year after the harvesting of the *aus* crop. In the 24-Parganas there was a failure of crops in certain Government estates owing to heavy rain.

Miscellaneous land revenue.

23. The collections of miscellaneous land revenue amounted to Rs. 11,43,261 as against Rs. 7,67,620 in the previous year. The increase is accounted for by heavy recoveries of survey and settlement charges in the districts of Faridpur and Jalpaiguri, where the receipts rose from Rs. 4,49,807 in 1912-13 to Rs. 8,83,263. Of the amount (Rs. 1,73,595) received as "Other receipts," the largest item was Rs. 57,325 realized from the Burdwan Estate on account of *pulbandi* contribution.

Changes in land revenue demand of temporarily-settled estates and estates under direct management.

24. There was a net increase of 30,749·73 acres in the area of land settled and of Rs. 92,836 in revenue.

Redemption of land revenue.

25. The number of petty estates, of which the land revenue was redeemed during the year, was 291; these were mostly permanently-settled holdings in the Government estates of Calcutta and its suburbs. There was no redemption under section 11 of the old Partition Act VIII (B.C.) of 1876. The total revenue of all the estates amounted to Rs. 630 and the price realized was Rs. 17,448.

Remittances of revenue and rent by money-orders.

26. The number of special money-orders issued during the year under report decreased from 320,340 to 312,535, while the total amount of land revenue and cesses remitted by them increased from Rs. 17,26,260 to Rs. 21,71,377. The aggregate of the remittances exceeded a lakh of rupees in each of the districts of Midnapore, Dacca, Mymensingh, Faridpur and Chittagong, and it was more than Rs. 50,000 in nine others. The average value of an order increased from Rs. 5·4 to Rs. 7·5. The system of payment of rent by money-order was in force throughout the Province, except in the district of Darjeeling and in the Chittagong Hill Tracts. The total number of money-orders issued during the year rose from 60,525 to 63,044 and the amount covered by them rose from Rs. 9,92,776 to Rs. 10,14,139. The percentage of money-orders refused by landlords fell from 25·1 in the preceding year to 20·3 during the year under report. Since the close of the year a revised form of rent money-order has been issued, certain modifications having been made in the existing form in order to remove the objections often made by landlords to accepting rents tendered in this manner. The form, as now revised, contains nothing which can give the tenant any loophole for making claims as to the nature, conditions or incidents of his tenancy or the amount or fixity of his rent, which might lead to disputes with the landlord or cause him to hesitate to accept the rent tendered, while the headings have been modified to facilitate the identification of the remitter and of the tenancy on account of which the rent is remitted.

Coercive measures. (a) Sale laws.

27. There were 12,467 defaults and 811 sales during the year as compared with 9,895 defaults and 920 sales in the previous year. The price realized by sale averaged 6·4 times the Government revenue against 5·8 times in 1912-13. Sixty-three tenures and holdings under the direct management of Government were sold under the provisions of Act XI of 1859. Of these, 19 were purchased on behalf of Government for Re. 1 each. One hundred and eight appeals were preferred to Commissioners against sales during the year. In 20 cases sales were annulled under section 2 of Act VII (B.C.) of 1868, and in 17 cases they were annulled either by Government or by the Board of Revenue which was vested, towards the end of the year, with this power under the Decentralization Act, 1914.

(b) Certificate procedure.

28. The new Certificate Act (Bengal Act III of 1913) came into operation from the beginning of the year under report. The total number of certificates (exclusive of those for cesses) filed during the year was 53,808 as against 69,677 of the preceding year. The percentage of certificate cases disposed of to the total number for disposal rose from 60·2 to 65·1. The number of cases pending at the close of the year was 30,977, of which 8,417 were pending for more than six months. The number of such cases was very large in Faridpur and Midnapore. In the great majority of cases disposed of, payments were made on the mere issue of notices or on the attachment of property, and it was necessary to resort to actual sales in only 1,576 cases out of 57,814 cases disposed of during the year.

Realization of Government demands by imprisonment.

29. In the enforcement of certificates 19 persons were confined in Civil Jails, seven for the non-payment of Government dues and twelve for the withholding of sums due to the Court of Wards and District Boards.

Processes.

30. The total number of processes served fell from 935,724 to 910,980. The process fees realized aggregated Rs. 3,59,585 against Rs. 3,62,048 in the preceding year and the total cost of service, including the pay of the supervising establishment debitable to land revenue, was Rs. 2,25,659 against Rs. 2,19,462 in the previous year. In only three districts, Khulna, Bakarganj and Jalpaiguri, did the cost of the process-serving establishment exceed the receipts from fees. In the district of Bankura the cost of service was nearly as great as the amount of fees realized. The imposition of fines and the grant of rewards for bad and good work respectively is reported to have worked well on the whole. The system of serving processes by *dafadars*

through President *Panchayats* was in force throughout the year in the districts of Hooghly, Dacca and Tippera, in the Sadar and Kalna Sub-Divisions of the district of Burdwan and in the Sadar Sub-Division of the district of Birbhum, and was extended during the year to the Magura Sub-Division of the district of Jessore and the Ranaghat, Chuadanga and Meherpur Sub-Divisions of the district of Nadia. Its further extension to the other districts of the Presidency Division was deferred pending the preparation of working rules for the guidance of *Nazirs* and President *Panchayats*. It is reported that the result of the experiment was satisfactory in all places except in the Sadar Sub-Division of the district of Burdwan and the Magura Sub-Division of the Jessore district. During the year a new procedure was prescribed for the service of foreign processes, *i.e.*, processes sent for service from courts or offices other than those of the receiving Collector or Sub-Divisional Officer. Such processes are now sent direct to Sub-Divisions and not through the district head-quarters, and after service they are returned direct to the issuing officers.

OTHER REVENUE WORK.

Land Registration.

31. During the year 38.627 applications were made under the Bengal Land Registration Act, VII of 1876, for registration of succession to proprietary interests in land by purchase, inheritance, gift or otherwise, while 10,622 applications were pending from the previous year. Of the total number 36,458 were granted before the close of the year. 37,408 old interests were removed and 47,886 new interests recorded. At the close of the year the total number of recorded interests in the Province was 939,839 as against 929,361 at the beginning. The number of cases undisposed of at the end of the year was 10,350, of which 198 had been pending for more than six months. The expenditure incurred on account of Land Registration (excluding the pay of the permanent establishment) amounted to Rs. 6,246. The fees and fines realized rose from Rs. 18,510 in 1912-13 to Rs. 21,840.

Partitions.

32. There were 238 partition cases pending at the close of the previous year and 73 cases were instituted during the year under report, making a total of 311 for disposal. Including 9 cases struck off for various reasons, the total number of cases disposed of during the year was 33 against 44 in the preceding year. Out of a total of 278 cases left unfinished at the close of the year, 122 have been pending for more than two years. There was a whole-time Partition Officer only in the district of Khulna. The incidence of cost per acre of area partitioned in the districts of Jessore, Dacca and Mymensingh, where there are partition funds, was annas, 15 annas 7 pies and 10 annas 10 pies against Re. 1-4, Re. 1-11-0½ and 9 annas 8 pies, respectively, in the preceding year. The system of carrying out partitions under Act V (B.C.) of 1897 through the agency of the Settlement Department in the course of settlement operations undertaken under the provisions of Chapter X of the Bengal Tenancy Act, which was being tried, as an experimental measure, in the districts of Faridpur, Dacca and Mymensingh, was not found a success under the existing law; and Government finally decided that, pending an amendment of the Partition Act, which is under the consideration of the Board of Revenue, no further partition work should be undertaken by the Settlement Department.

Land Acquisition.

33. Proceedings for the acquisition, on behalf of Government and local bodies and companies, of land covering an area of 1,979 acres were confirmed during the year at a total cost of Rs. 35,42,272, as compared with an area of 3.302 acres at a cost of Rs. 24,31,015 during the preceding year. Of the total expenditure incurred a sum of Rs. 25,27,952 was for acquisition of lands for Government, including State Railways, and Rs. 10,14,320 for all other purposes, viz., for District Boards, Municipalities and Railway and other companies. The average cost per acre of the lands for which acquisition proceedings were confirmed during the year was Rs. 1,790 against Rs. 736 in the preceding year. The increase in the average cost was chiefly due to the fact that the proceedings for the acquisition of more costly projects in the town of Calcutta and its suburbs in the 24-Parganas were confirmed during the year.

Loans—(a) Land Improvement Loans Act.

34. The amount of loans under the Land Improvement Loans Act outstanding at the commencement of the year was Rs. 2,06,010 and loans amounting to Rs. 19,258 were advanced during the year under report. The total outstanding principal was Rs. 2,25,268, of which Rs. 1,14,432 fell due for repayment during the year. Out of this, Rs. 85,601 was realized during the year, including a sum of Rs. 1,429 collected in advance, while Rs. 2,993 was remitted. The balance outstanding at the close of the year was Rs. 1,36,669, of which Rs. 27,262 was overdue.

(b) Agriculturists' Loans Act.

35. The amount advanced during the year under the Agriculturists' Loans Act was Rs 3,88,217. The outstanding balance of the previous year was Rs. 2,10,295. making the aggregate amount outstanding Rs. 5,98,512, of which Rs. 1,80,0 9 was recoverable within the year. The total collections amounted to Rs 81,874, of which Rs. 701 were advance payments; and Rs. 965 were remitted. The balance recoverable in future years is Rs. 5,15,673 (including Rs. 2,024 under suspension, and Rs. 95,877 overdue at the end of the year). The amounts overdue in Nadia and Tippera were heavy as in the previous year.

Surveys.

[Report of the Survey Department, Bengal, for the year ending the 30th September 1913.]

Outturn for the year.

36. The work of the Survey Department lay in the districts of Dacca, Mymensingh, Rajshahi and Midnapore. The total area surveyed during the year amounted to 3,562 square miles as against 3,279 square miles in the previous year. The Survey Department also dealt with what remained of the survey of the city of Calcutta and with the survey, on behalf of the Calcutta Improvement Trust, of the Maniktala, Tollygunge, South Suburban and Cossipore-Chitpur Municipalities, in all of which fair progress was made in spite of difficulties of demarcation.

Administrative and other changes.

37. The reunion of the Survey operations of Eastern and Western Bengal under one controlling officer led to a reconsideration of the internal organisation of the Department. The four traverse sections, three in Eastern Bengal and one in Midnapore, which had previously been under the direct control of the Director of Surveys, were on the 1st June 1913 amalgamated into a single Traverse Party under the charge of a senior officer of the Provincial Service of the Survey of India, while for miscellaneous work unconnected with district surveys and records-of-rights a Miscellaneous Traverse and Survey Section, also under the charge of an officer of the Provincial Service of the Survey of India, was created experimentally for two years from the 15th May 1913. The survey of Calcutta and the adjoining areas continued to be dealt with by a special party.

Land Records and Settlements.

[Annual Report of the Director of Land Records, Bengal, for the year ending the 30th September 1913.]

General.

38. Survey and Settlement operations under the supervision of the Director of Land Records were in progress in 22 districts. The total area of British territory in this Province, excluding large rivers, is 73,031 square miles, of which 5,483 square miles are covered by reserved forests, and 2,337 square miles are unsettled waste at the disposal of Government. The settled area comprises 65,211 square miles, in 63,699 of which the Bengal Tenancy Act is in force. A record-of-rights, prepared under Chapter X of that Act, has been finally published in respect of 10,921 square miles.

Land Revenue Settlements.

39. The Settlement of land revenue in the Western Duars Government Estate in the district of Jalpaiguri resulted in an increase of 25·5 per cent. A considerable area was resettled in the district of Faridpur, where there was an increase of revenue amounting to 75 per cent., most of which was due to extension of cultivation.

Other Settlements.

40. The districts in which operations on a large scale were in progress during the year were Dacca, Mymensingh, Midnapore, Rajshahi, Faridpur and

Jalpaiguri. To these may be added an area of 137 square miles in the Rampurhat Sub-Division of the district of Birbhum, where operations were begun in 1909-10 in advance of the provincial programme, in consequence of serious discontent amongst the Sonthal cultivators.

Dacca. 41. In Dacca the programme, consisting of 1,050 square miles of field work and 845 square miles of attestation, could not be fully carried through because a portion of the work lay in *bil* and hilly areas, and in *thana* Raipura a good deal of co-parcenary and sub-infeudation was encountered.

Mymensingh. 42. The programme in Mymensingh consisted of 798 square miles of cadastral survey, 1,250 square miles of attestation, 720 square miles of fair copying and recovery work in 800 square miles. Recovery was in arrears owing to the inability of the landlords to pay before the *Pujas*, but the rest of the programme was successfully carried out and some progress was made with the printing of the records. About half the number of cases filed were disposed of.

Midnapore. 43. The programme of work in Midnapore, consisting of 1,069 square miles of cadastral survey and 956 square miles of attestation, was fully carried out. Owing to the large enhancements of rents found in *pargana* Silda, *thana* Binpur, the sanction of the Government of India has been obtained to the application of the provisions of section 112 of the Bengal Tenancy Act to this area.

Rajshahi. 44. The first season's work in Rajshahi consisting of 880 square miles of cadastral survey and initial record-writing and the local explanation of the records was nearly completed. The slight deficiency was due partly to the inexperience of the staff and the prevalence of malarial fever and partly to the fact that much of the area dealt with was covered by *bils*.

Faridpur. 45. In Faridpur the records of 491 square miles were finally published and costs were recovered in 544 square miles.

Jalpaiguri. 46. In Jalpaiguri the programme consisted of fair copying and final publication of the records of the total area under the operations, viz., 2,037 square miles. Progress was greatly hampered by malaria, which made it difficult to organise and retain a competent staff. In the temporarily-settled area rent-rolls have been published in draft for 768 square miles and the settlement rent-roll of 299 square miles has been confirmed.

Rampore Hat (Birbhum). 47. In the Rampore Hât Sub-Division of the district of Birbhum the work was completed excepting the settlement of rents under section 112 of the Bengal Tenancy Act and a small amount of case-work and recovery.

Minor Settlements. 48. Minor operations under the supervision of District Officers were carried on in sixteen districts. Seventeen estates covering about 20 square miles were in the hands of the Special Officer in Burdwan, where work was delayed by the floods in the Damodar. In Hooghly some settlement of land revenue was done with the result that revenue has increased by 15 per cent. in the estates concerned. Operations under the Tenancy Act in the private estates made good progress. There was, however, delay in the recovery of costs owing to the postponement of recovery in the area affected by the floods. In the 24-Parganas the outturn fell short of the programme of operations in the zamindari estates owing to the fact that excessive rainfall in the latter part of the year necessitated a temporary suspension of all work. Satisfactory progress was made in Nadia, where fifteen Government estates, eight temporarily-settled and three zamindari estates were being dealt with. It has been decided that no new settlement work will be undertaken in this district before the commencement of the general district operations. In Murshidabad, work was somewhat retarded by excessive rainfall. The work in the Mokimpur Ward's estate lying partly in Jessore and partly in Khulna made satisfactory progress. In Bakarganj the assessment of alluvion under Act IX of 1847 continued as a sequel to the district operations recently completed. An area of 66 square miles was also under ordinary revision of land revenue. Altogether 425 *diara* proceedings covering 340 new estates have been drawn up on 81 rivers in the district. In Noakhali the staff engaged in the revision of land revenue has been strengthened. The settlement of the Kolbong estate in the district of Darjeeling was completed.

49. The work of maintenance and inspection of boundary marks received due attention. Boundary marks.

Waste Lands.

(Report on the Land Revenue Administration of Bengal for the year 1913-14.)

50. The existing rules for the grant of waste land leases in the 24-Parganas and Khulna portions of the Sundarbans remained under suspension. Draft rules framed by the Board of Revenue were still under the consideration of Government as it has been suggested that the policy of reclamation of this area by means of embankments is detrimental since it interferes with the building up of the deltaic tract by tidal action. The number of leases granted in the 24-Parganas Sundarbans under the former rules and the rules of 1853 remained unchanged, viz., 188 and 93 respectively. The revenue payable in respect of these leases was Rs. 73,001 and Rs. 79,459, which will rise eventually to Rs. 2,35,111 and Rs. 80,033 respectively. The number of leases in the Saugor island was six as before, with an annual revenue demand of Rs. 956 rising eventually to Rs. 11,931. In Jalpaiguri, *parwanas* for possession were issued in respect of 130 waste land *jotes* settled during the year. The regular leases under the Arable Waste Land Lease Rules will be issued in the course of the current settlement. Waste lands.

Government Estates.

[Report on the Land Revenue Administration of Bengal for the year 1913-14.]

51. The total number of estates held direct by Government, including those belonging to private proprietors but managed by Government, was 2,161 with a current demand of Rs. 39,84,881. The percentage of the cost of management on the current demand was 6·79. The condition of the tenants was on the whole satisfactory. Good crops were obtained in most districts, though in parts of Midnapore, the 24-Parganas, Nadia and Jessore considerable local damage was caused by floods and excessive rainfall. The collection of rent was freely suspended wherever necessary. No material change in the system of management was introduced. As in the previous year extra establishment had again to be employed in the Contai *Khas Mahals* of the Midnapore district in connection with mutation work and pending civil suits. Arrangements are being made to give effect to the recommendations of the Ministerial Officers' Salaries Committee in respect of the *Khas Mahal* Department of the Chittagong district. Number and Management.

52. Of the total expenditure of Rs. 78,533 under the heads Miscellaneous and Sanitary improvements, a sum of Rs. 5,886 was spent on tanks and wells, Rs. 43,644 on drainage, irrigation and embankments, Rs. 4,002 on roads and bridges and the balance of Rs. 25,001 on tree-planting and miscellaneous objects. Small savings were reported from most districts out of the allotments made for works of improvement. Grants for improvements.

53. During the year under report, which was the seventh year since the introduction of the colonization scheme in the Bakarganj Sundarbans, 239 new colonists were settled on 12,340 *bighas* of land as against 715 colonists on 54,586 *bighas* in the previous year. The decrease was due to the cessation of the first rush for land which took place after it became known that good land was available in the Sundarbans. The progress of reclamation was satisfactory, and the local officers expect that the major portion of the area settled will be reclaimed and brought under cultivation shortly. A new departure has been made in the colonization area this year by the starting of 14 rural co-operative credit societies, which it is hoped will prove of much benefit to the settlers. Colonization in the Bakarganj Sundarbans.

54. The total expenditure on roads and communications in Government estates amounted to Rs. 2,05,211, an excess of Rs. 66,334 over the Government 1½ per cent. grant for this purpose. This excess expenditure was met from District Board and other local funds. Roads.

Education.

55. The total expenditure on education was Rs. 60,854, the Government grant being Rs. 44,223. The excess was met from local grants. The total number of Government estate schools and of pupils in the whole province was 2,379 and 77,201, respectively, as against 2,262 and 74,485 of the previous year. The number of schools and pupils decreased in Midnapore, but there was a marked increase in Bakarganj. Faridpur, Chittagong and Noakhali.

Sale of estates.

56. Four estates, covering an area of 52 acres in the Presidency and Dacca Divisions, were sold during the year for Rs. 1,914 subject to a total annual revenue of Rs. 49.

Wards' and Attached Estates.

(Report on the administration of Wards' and Attached Estates for the year 1913-14.)

Number of estates and payment of Government demands.

57. The total number of estates under the management of the Court of Wards was 59 at the beginning of the year. Two estates were released, leaving 57 estates under management at the close of the year. The total amount of revenue and cesses due to Government including arrears of Rs. 85,753 was Rs. 13,99,753, of which 91·5 per cent. was paid against 92·3 in the previous year.

Rent and cesses due to superior landlords.

58. The percentage of payment of rent and cesses to superior landlords was the same as in the previous year, viz., 71·6 per cent. of the amount due, leaving a balance of Rs. 2,12,351 out of a total demand of Rs. 7,96,439. More than Rs. 90,000 was due from two estates in Bakarganj which have been released from the management of the Court of Wards. In most cases the delay in the discharge of the liabilities was due to disputes with co-sharers and other legal difficulties.

Collection of rent and cesses.

59. The demand for rent and cesses due to the estates under management was Rs. 97,94,618 including an arrear demand of Rs. 54,66,501. Out of this, Rs. 43,22,347 or 44·1 per cent. was collected against 44·5 per cent. in the previous year. The percentage of collections on current demand was 99·9 against 106·1 in the preceding year. The standard of 100 per cent. collections on current demand was exceeded only in the Chittagong and Rajshahi Divisions, the lowest percentage 86·0 being in the Presidency Division and the highest 113·9 in the Chittagong Division.

Balances of rent and cesses due to estates.

60. The outstanding balances of rent and cesses due to estates aggregated Rs. 51,75,394, which represents 119·6 per cent. on the current demand and 52·8 per cent. on the total demand against 129·2 and 54·2 in the previous year. The balances exceeded the current demand in the Dacca Division (161·4 per cent.) and in the Presidency Division (112·0 per cent.) and were below it in the Burdwan (97·2), Chittagong (75·7 per cent.) and Rajshahi Divisions (44·5 per cent.). In the Burdwan Division the increase in the percentage of balances was due partly to the poor collections in some estates which suffered badly from floods. Of the total balance of Rs. 9,55,251 in the Presidency Division, Rs. 2,45,889 was reported to be bad and irrecoverable. The increase in the balances of some estates was due partly to Managers having neglected to apply for the remission of irrecoverable balances. In the Dacca Division a large portion of the arrears is said to be irrecoverable, and steps are being taken to have them written off. The increase of balances in two estates (Khalisakota and Bhukailas No. II) in this Division was due to the fact that the tenants deferred payment in anticipation of the release of those estates from the management of the Court, which was effected towards the close of the year.

Debts of estates.

61. The total liabilities of the estates which were under the control of Government during the year amounted to nearly 106 lakhs, of which 12 lakhs were paid off during the year. Over 81 lakhs were due from seven heavily encumbered estates.

A loan of Rs. 6,00,000 at 6 per cent. interest was successfully negotiated on behalf of the Jhargram Estate, and with this the previous debts of the estate which bore a higher rate of interest, were cleared off. The balances of ascertained debts due from the Tagore Estate rose from Rs. 16,34,414 to

Rs. 18,63,593 mainly by accrual of interest on the mortgage debt and ascertainment of new debts. The suit instituted by the mortgagees on the disposal of which it is expected that the Court of Wards will be freed from the management of this heavily encumbered estate is still pending. The debts due by the Mukharji Estate were reduced from Rs. 2,21,043 to Rs. 1,17,000. Out of the total outstanding debt of the Bhawal Estate amounting to Rs. 24,77,857, the undisputed balance was Rs. 3,77,920 only. The outstanding debts of the estate of Khwaja Atikulla stood at Rs. 8,70,744 at the close of the year. Every effort to raise a loan at a lower rate of interest for this estate proved unsuccessful. The liabilities of the Karatiya and Golakpur Estates were reduced from Rs. 2,69,229 and Rs. 6,53,563 to Rs. 2,24,850 and Rs. 6,33,566, respectively. By raising a loan of Rs. 80,000 at 6 per cent. interest, all the old debts of the Sherpur Estate in Mymensingh carrying higher interest were paid off. The balance outstanding at the close of the year amounted to Rs. 1,08,084 against Rs. 1,16,986 at the end of the preceding year. In Bakarganj the two mos heavily encumbered Estates, viz., the Khalisakota Estate and Bhukailas Estate No. II were released from the management of the Court. Satisfactory progress was made in the liquidation of the liabilities of Bhukailas Estate No. I and of the Kazi Estate in Tipera, which stood at Rs. 2,45,000 and Rs. 77,702, respectively, at the close of the year.

Management charges.

62. The percentage of the cost of management on the current rent and cess demand was 12·6 for the whole province against 12·1 in the previous year. The standard of 10 per cent. was exceeded in all the Divisions. In many estates the high cost of management was due to the scattered nature of the properties. There was a reduction in the cost of management in all the three estates in Mymensingh. The management charges of the Karatiya Estate in Mymensingh will undergo further reduction owing to the abolition of the post of Assistant Manager. Schemes for reducing the cost of management in Mymensingh and Bakarganj are under consideration.

Improvements.

63. The standard fixed for expenditure on schools and on agricultural and sanitary improvements, are 1 and 3 per cent. respectively, of the current rent and cess demand of an estate. The total amount spent on improvements was Rs. 1,70,917 or 3·9 per cent. of the current rent and cess demand. In accordance with the orders issued by the Board in the previous year schemes for agricultural experiments were drawn up by the Commissioner of the Presidency Division in respect of the Janbazar and Gobardanga Estates, and by the Commissioner of the Chittagong Division in respect of the Kasimbazar Estate. In both cases the Director of Agriculture was consulted.

Lady Assistant.

64. Miss Cornelia Sorabji, the Lady Assistant to the Court of Wards, continued to do useful work in advising the ladies of the zenanas of Wards Estates and in looking after their health and education and that of the minor wards.

Education of the wards.

65. The education of the wards continued to receive due attention and the results attained were on the whole satisfactory. During the year effect was given to the scheme for giving minors under the Court of Wards some training in survey and settlement work before their estates were released. Two wards attended the training camp held during the field season of 1913-14.

Revenue and Rent-paying Classes.

[Report on the Land Revenue Administration of Bengal for the year 1913-14.]

Bengal Tenancy Act.

66. The Bengal Tenancy Act is in force throughout the Province except in the District of Darjeeling, the Chittagong Hill Tracts, and the town of Calcutta. On the whole it worked smoothly. The absence of objections to the price-lists of staple food crops and of applications for commutation of rent or for registration of improvements, however, shows that the importance of various sections of the Act has not yet been realised by the public. A proposal is now under consideration for amending the law relating to the transferability of occupancy holdings.

Relation between landlords and tenants.

67. The relations between landlords and tenants were generally satisfactory except in certain places. In the Katwa Sub-Division of the district of Burdwan there was a serious dispute between certain landlords and their tenants resulting in a number of criminal cases and ultimately necessitating an order under section 101 (*2*) (*b*) of the Bengal Tenancy Act for a survey and the preparation of a record-of-rights. Some other disputes of minor importance were reported from this district as also from Hooghly, Rangpur, Dinajpur, Malda and the districts in the Chittagong Division. The settlement operations in progress in Midnapore have brought to a head a considerable number of disputes between landlords and tenants. The suits in the Civil Courts relating to the claims of the *Chakdars* and *Mandals* in the district for the status of occupancy raiyats have not yet been disposed of. The relations between some of the landlords and their tenants in the districts of the Presidency Division and in Faridpur were strained. In the district of Rajshahi some friction between landlord and tenants is said to have been caused by the settlement operations, as each party naturally tried to have the record-of-rights framed as much as possible in its favour. The Collector of Birbhum writes that the relations between landlords and tenants tend to become more formal under the influence of the Bengal Tenancy Act.

Rent-receipts.

68. The issue of rent-receipts as provided for in the Bengal Tenancy Act is not the rule with all landlords. During the year only 68 cases were instituted for failure to grant proper receipts. Of these 34 ended in conviction, 24 were struck off or dismissed, 3 were amicably settled and 6 remained pending at the close of the year. There are indications that many cases in which the provision of the law in this respect is ignored do not come to light at all.

Illegal cesses.

69. The levy of *abwabs* or exactions in excess of legal rent and cesses continues to prevail in some shape or other throughout the Presidency, though no suit was brought under section 75 of the Bengal Tenancy Act to resist such demands. Tenants pay such exactions without demur from a desire to maintain peaceful relations with their landlords and thus avoid harassment in other ways. The tenants in Rajshahi are said to be gradually learning to refuse to pay such illegal demands and the Commissioner of Dacca remarks that it is quite true that the tenants continue to pay many *abwabs*, but they are learning the power of combination and the settlement proceedings are teaching them their legal rights.

CHAPTER III.—PROTECTION.

Legislative Authorities.

See—

GENERAL ADMINISTRATION REPORT FOR 1912-13, PART II, PAGES 13-14.

Course of Legislation.

70. The following five Acts were passed by the Bengal Legislative Council during 1913-14 and became law during that year, namely :— **Acts passed by the Bengal Legislative Council during 1913-14.**

(*1*) *Bengal Act IV of 1913* [The Bengal Public Gambling (Amendment) Act, 1913].—The object of this Act was to extend the meaning of the word "gaming" in the three marginally noted Acts in force in Bengal relating to public gambling, so as to make the Acts applicable to "cotton figure" and other forms of public gambling which cause serious evils. An exception is made, however, in respect of wagering or betting upon race-horses effected on the actual day of a race and within an authorised enclosure. **Act XXI of 1857, Ben. Act IV of 1866, Ben. Act II of 1867.**

(*2*) *Bengal Act I of 1914* [The Bengal Laws Act, 1914].—The object of this Act was to assimilate certain enactments in force in Eastern Bengal and Western Bengal, respectively, by—

(*i*) extending to Eastern Bengal certain enactments of the Bengal Legislative Council which apply only to Western Bengal,

(*ii*) extending to Western Bengal certain enactments of the Eastern Bengal and Assam Legislative Council, and

(*iii*) repealing corresponding enactments which were hitherto in force in the areas affected.

(*3*) *Bengal Act II of 1914* [The Bengal Municipal (Sanitary Officers) Act, 1914].—The main object of this Act was to amend the Bengal Municipal Act, 1884 (Bengal Act III of 1884) in order to provide for the appointment of Sanitary Officers in mufassal Municipalities.

(*4*) *Bengal Act III of 1914* [The Doveton Trust Act, 1914].—The objects of this Act were to abolish the Institution known as the Doveton College owing to the mal-administration of the Institution by the former Committee of management, and to take its property and funds under the management of the Government for application, as nearly as possible, in the manner contemplated by the founders of the Institution.

(*5*) *Bengal Act IV of 1914* [The Calcutta Municipal (Loans) Act, 1914].—The object of this Act was to amend the provisions of the Calcutta Municipal Act, 1899 (Bengal Act III of 1899), relating to loans, owing to the discovery of certain defects in the constitution of the Sinking Fund A prescribed by section 133 of that Act.

71. The following Bills were under consideration by the Bengal Legislative Council during the year 1913-14, and were passed by that Council and became law shortly after the close of that year, namely :— **Bills pending during 1913-14.**

(*1*) *The Chittagong Port Bill, 1913.*—This Bill was introduced in Council on the 1st December, 1913, and was passed on the 28th February, 1914, being now Bengal Act V of 1914. It was, however, not brought into force till the 1st July, 1914. The object of the Act was to make more suitable

provisions for the management of the affairs of the Port of Chittagong in view of present day requirements.

(2) *The Bengal Medical Bill, 1913.*—This Bill was introduced in Council on the 1st December, 1913, and was passed on the 3rd April, 1914, being now Bengal Act VI of 1914. This Act provides for the registration of Medical Practitioners in Bengal, and is designed to protect the public and the medical profession from irregularly qualified practitioners. It is based on the Medical Acts in force in England (21 & 22 Vict., c. 90, and amending Acts), and on the Bombay Medical Act, 1912 (Bombay Act VI of 1912), passed by the Bombay Legislative Council on the 14th March, 1912.

Police.

[The Report on the Police Administration in the Bengal Presidency for the year 1913. Statistics of British India, Part VI—Administrative and Judicial.]

Ordinary Crime.

72. The percentage of increase in the total number of true cases was not large. An increase is noticeable under every head except rioting, coining and murder and is most apparent under the heads burglary, theft and dacoity. The increase of 1,443 true cases of burglary is serious. An increase in the number of reported cases of cognizable crime occurred in twelve districts. There was a satisfactory decrease of 899 cases in the 24-Parganas and there were also decreases in Chittagong and Rangpur. The increase in the number of reported and true cases must not, however, be taken as an accurate index to the increase in criminality during the year. The increase may be attributed in part to better reporting due to the closer supervision exercised by gazetted officers posted to Sub-Divisions. The number of true cases of dacoity rose, but the fact that only 8 out of 245 cases were committed by people of the *bhadrdlok* class shows that the importance of political as compared with ordinary dacoities is often exaggerated. The increased number of dacoities is due to the impunity with which this class of crime can be committed owing to futile attempts to place gangs of dacoits on their trial on specific charges of dacoity under section 395, Indian Penal Code. The remedy appears to be the free use of sections 400 and 401, Indian Penal Code. The rules regarding the institution of gang cases have been revised ; and it is hoped that the result may be the break-up of the many gangs which have sprung into existence in recent years. A new departure during the year in dealing with criminal gangs was the enforcement of the amended Criminal Tribes Act. It is hoped that, if full advantage be taken of the provisions of this Act, many hereditary criminal tribes and gangs will be brought under effective control.

Political Crime.

73. The anarchist group continued its activities against the Police. Two zealous Police officers were murdered. Head Constable Haripado Deb of the Calcutta Police was shot in College Square, while the assassins quietly escaped in the crowd. The next evening Inspector Bankim Chandra Chaudhuri was killed by a bomb in Mymensingh. No clue was forthcoming in either case. Two persons, who had helped or were suspected of helping the Police in tracking down political offenders, were also murdered, and a bomb was thrown at Abdur Rahman, the Midnapore informer, whose house was damaged by a bomb in December 1912. The finding of certain papers at Dacca in November 1912 and the house searches in February 1913, when the "District Organisation Scheme" and the "Rules of Membership" of a secret society were found, led to the institution of a conspiracy case at Barisal in which twelve persons were convicted and sentenced to various terms of imprisonment. The Governor-General in Council commended the perseverance and courage of the Police officers to whose efforts the discovery and exposure of the conspiracy was due, and His Excellency the Governor also congratulated the Police on their success.

General condition of the police.

74. There appears to have been but slight improvement in the conditions of service of the rank and file of the Police force during the year under review. There was an increase in the number of recruits enlisted ; but the number of vacancies rose from 800 to over 1,200, and the various heads of casualties all

show a heavy increase. The necessity of employing men of the armed reserve on extraneous duties, such as the escort of treasure, interfered with the training of this branch of the force and diminished its efficiency. Owing to the number of vacancies and the insufficiency of the ordinary reserve, leave of absence could not be granted and this again reacted on the popularity of the service and increased the difficulties of recruiting, while it encouraged resignations.

Two regiments of the Indian Army were lent to the Government of Bengal and gave much temporary relief by taking up the duties of armed reserve, guards and escorts in certain districts of Eastern Bengal.

There was unfortunately no improvement in the health of the force as a whole, and both the number of deaths and the number of men admitted to hospital increased.

Efforts are being made to improve the health of the force by supplying mosquito nets and cots and by replacing the old and insanitary buildings by healthier and more attractive quarters. A scheme is under preparation with a view to remedy the deficiency of the ordinary reserve, as at present constituted, by introducing a reserve scale which shall take into account the relative unhealthiness of different districts and provide for unforeseen and temporary demands on the Police force. The reorganization of the ordinary reserve on this basis should make it easier to grant leave of absence. Under these better conditions there is ground for hope that the Subordinate Police Service will become more popular.

The discipline of the Police during the year was good. The number of officers and men judicially punished during the year slightly increased, but prosecutions under the Indian Penal Code appreciably decreased and there was a diminution in the number of departmental punishments. The number of officers and men rewarded fell; but this was due to a ruling which prohibited the payment of rewards to Police officers for good work unless such rewards had been previously offered. Revised rules are being framed under the provisions of the Police Act, and these will enable Superintendents of Police to grant rewards within certain limits. The Inspector-General reports that there has been a general improvement in the tone and work of Circle Inspectors, due in some measure to the insistence upon efficiency rather than seniority as the main qualification for promotion.

A satisfactory feature of the year's work was the substantial progress made in the construction and repair of buildings. The total expenditure amounted to over fourteen lakhs as compared with nine lakhs in the preceding year. Much still remains to be done, however, in the direction of the more suitable housing of the Police force.

The discipline of the Military Police battalion during the year was excellent and there was again a noticeable improvement in its efficiency. The health of the men was satisfactory. The Commandant and an Assistant Commandant, with a large number of men, were employed during a portion of the year in Assam in connection with the Chinglong Expedition in the Naga Hills. Better accommodation has been provided for the men in the Military Police lines at Dacca.

75. Including cases pending from 1912, 471 criminal charges were preferred against the Police as against 361 in the preceding year. The 427 charges disposed of included 15 of torture, 111 of extortion, 20 of bribery and 281 of wrongful restraint and confinement, etc. Fifty-seven cases ended in conviction and 370 cases were unsubstantiated. In 1913, of the 337 charges disposed of 279 were unsubstantiated. While therefore the number of true charges against the police remains practically the same as in the preceding year there is a large increase in the number of unsubstantiated charges. It is satisfactory to observe that there was no conviction for torture. As the total Police force numbers over 19,000, the number of convictions for bribery was small and indicates a steady improvement in the *morale* of the force. Twenty-six civil suits were instituted against the Police, of which 16 were dismissed by the Courts, 1 was struck off on the withdrawal of the plaint and 9 remained pending at the close of the year. **Charges against the police.**

Twenty-three cases were reported to Government in which serious allegations of ill-treatment or assault were made against the Police. Of these 2

only ended in conviction, 9 were acquitted and 12 were dismissed under section 203, Criminal Procedure Code. The Inspector-General of Police remarks that the majority of serious charges brought against the Police are instituted in the districts of Eastern Bengal. It is clear from the Inspector-General's report that any allegation of serious misconduct by the Police is immediately brought to the notice of independent officers and made the subject of careful enquiry.

River police.

76. The sanctioned strength of the River Police force was considerably increased during the year. The difficulty which confronts the Civil Police in recruiting suitable men is felt even more acutely in the case of the River Police, and it was not found possible to bring the force up to the sanctioned strength. A second division of the River Police consisting of six patrol posts was established on the Ganges and Brahmaputra. Four of these posts have been provided with floating police stations and light boats for patrolling purposes; patrol boats were also attached to two posts where the *thanas* were on land. At Chandpur and Goalundo patrol launches have been provided. It is satisfactory to note that no cases of river dacoity were reported in 1913 from the area under patrol, that thefts decreased and that boats frequently applied to be allowed to moor in proximity to the floating *thanas*. During the jute season a force was deputed from certain districts in the Dacca Range to protect the treasure boats concerned in the jute trade; and it is satisfactory that the scheme proved effective in affording security to traders. The cadets and constables are being trained in law and procedure and also in practical subjects such as drill, swimming, boat duties, etc. A conference was held in Nabiganj at which His Excellency the Governor and the Hon'ble Sir William Duke were present; and it was decided that the type of motor-launch at present in use was not suitable for river work in the lower waters of the Meghna. At present experiments are being made with an improved design for a small steam-launch.

Military police.

77. The discipline of the Military Police battalion during the year was excellent and its efficiency greatly improved. Special classes were held in Semaphore signalling, the use of the mekometer, first aid to the wounded and physical training. Two camps of exercise were held, as a result of which all ranks gain edconsiderable experience in field work and were able to hold their own beside regular troops during the concentration at Dacca. Training in musketry was kept up for a great part of the year. The provision of another range in the immediate proximity of the lines would be greatly in the interests of the battalion. The matter is engaging the attention of Government.

Chaukidari circle officers.

78. The question of improving the administration and increasing the efficiency of the rural police in Bengal formed the subject of prolonged correspondence between the local Government and the Government of India. An attempt was made to establish a satisfactory subordinate agency, other than the Police, which should form a link between the District Administration and the people and could supervise the working of the village police and the *panchayats*. To provide this supervision the sanction of the Secretary of State was obtained to the temporary addition of forty Sub-Deputy Collectors to the provincial cadre.

Mr. J. N. Gupta, I.C.S., who was on special duty in connection with the experimental introduction of the circle system into selected Sub-Divisions, submitted an interesting report, and Mr. E. G. Hart, Superintendent of Police, submitted a separate report dealing with several problems connected with the village *chaukidari* system. These reports have been considered in connection with the larger enquiry recently concluded by the District Administration Committee.

Rural police.

79. A scheme for whole-time *dafadars* was introduced in the Madaripur Sub-Division as an experimental measure, and Government undertook to pay part of their remuneration. The *dafadars* will receive quinquennial increments in their pay which will begin at Rs. 12 per mensem. They have been supplied with arms and lanterns, and a set of rules has been drawn up defining their duties. The result of this experiment in stiffening the Rural Police will be carefully watched by Government.

The balances of the *Chaukidari* Reward Fund continue to be high in most districts Liberal rewards should be granted wherever good work is

done. Punishments are very freely inflicted. It appears that while 45 per cent. of the *chaukidars* were punished in the year under review, of whom the vast majority were fined, only 12 per cent. of the *chaukidars* were rewarded.

Mortality caused by wild animals and snakes.

[Report on the above and measures taken for their destruction during the year 1913. Statistics of British India, Part V—Area, population and Public health.]

Wild animals.

80. The number of persons killed by wild animals fell from 408 to 299. There was an appreciable decrease in the total number of deaths caused by tigers, the figure for the year under report being 84 as against 147 in the preceding year. The decrease was most noticeable in the Presidency Division where the number fell from 82 to 51.

Snakes.

81. The number of persons who died from snake-bite was 4,495 as against 4,471 in 1912. The increase was shared by all the Divisions except Chittagong and Rajshahi, where the number fell from 154 and 1,217 to 125 and 1,073, respectively. The increase in the districts of Hooghly and Howrah is reported to be due to snakes having left the fields and other hiding places owing to heavy floods and having taken shelter in places which were crowded with human beings.

Cattle killed by wild animals.

82. Five thousand and sixteen head of cattle were killed by wild animals and 153 by snakes against 4,950 and 276, respectively, in the preceding year. The increase in the mortality due to wild animals occurred mostly in the Dacca and Presidency Divisions.

Destruction of wild animals.

83. The total number of wild animals destroyed during the year under report was 2,858 as against 2,112 in the preceding year. The number of tigers and leopards killed rose from 132 and 327 in 1912 to 180 and 466, respectively. Seventeen thousand one hundred and twenty snakes were destroyed as against 12,674 in 1912-13. The amounts paid in rewards for the destruction of wild animals and snakes were Rs. 19,051-11-6 and Rs. 172-1, respectively, the corresponding figures for 1912 being Rs. 13,287-2 and Rs. 190-4.

Police Administration in Calcutta.

[Annual Report on the Police Administration of the town of Calcutta and its suburbs for the year 1913. Statistics of British India, Part VI—Administrative and Judicial.]

Administration

84. Of the changes made in the Force in response to various administrative needs, the most noteworthy was the abolition of the Old Calcutta Armed Police consisting of constables under European Sub-Inspectors, and its replacement by two companies of regularly constituted Armed Police.

Discipline and recruits.

85. The discipline of the Force as indicated by the punishments inflicted appears to have been maintained at the same standard as in the previous year. Though recruitment has been discontinued at Nathnagar in Bihar since April 1913, more recruits were enlisted, and the number finally left to complete their training was 100 more than in the previous year. The Dullanda Buildings which have been selected for the location of the new Training School for the Calcutta Police will shortly be vacated by the Forms Department, and funds have been provided in the budget of 1914-15 for the alterations required in the structure and for the equipment of the school.

Subdivision of the Calcutta Police Courts.

86. The inadequacy of the existing accommodation for the Presidency Magistrates, Calcutta, in the Police Court building at Lal Bazar had for some years past been the subject of most anxious consideration by the Local Government. It appeared that the only practical remedy for the physical congestion of the courts at Lal Bazar was to remove one or more of the courts to some other building and to give such court or courts jurisdiction over all cases coming up from a certain specified area. Government accordingly decided to introduce this scheme as an experimental measure and to create two new courts in the northern and southern portions of the town

respectively. Effect has been given to these changes. The northern court has been located in a part of the Old Duff College building and the southern court in a rented house in the neighbourhood of the Park Street *thana*. Since the close of the year, the central court has been removed to a more suitable building in Bankshall Street.

Juvenile Offenders. Crime.

87. The representative committee appointed by Government to formulate a scheme for the treatment of youthful offenders held a number of sittings during the year and submitted their report to Government recommending the appointment of probation officers and the formation of a Juvenile court.

88. The number of true cognisable cases increased by 2,500 chiefly on account of prosecutions for the obstruction of public thoroughfares, of cases of public nuisance, and of breaches of the excise law, mostly for the illegal possession and sale of cocaine. Prosecution is still the only satisfactory method of dealing with road obstruction; and to facilitate the suppression of this nuisance Government have under consideration a proposal to establish a court of Honorary Magistrates at a convenient place in the locality where the evil is most prevalent.

Motor traffic.

89. A remarkable increase in motor traffic has been made in recent years. Greater activity was shown in prosecuting for offences under the Motor Car Act and Statutory Rules. The number of persons killed or injured by motor-cars and in other conveyance accidents increased, but it compares favourably with the number of similar street accidents in many other large towns. The expansion of motor-traffic and the possibility of the introduction of steam and petrol motor tractors for the carriage of heavy goods demanded an examination of the existing rules, and a representative committee was appointed by Government to suggest amendments.

Refuge.

90. The "Refuge" continued to extend its humanitarian work of giving shelter to the destitute and infirm. Disabled beggars who are convicted in Calcutta and the suburbs may be sent to that institution by the order of the Magistrate. Government makes a grant of Rs. 8 a month on certain conditions in respect of every such person admitted. A similar capitation grant has been sanctioned in respect of disabled blind persons admitted after conviction to the "Calcutta Blind School." These two non-official Charitable institutions which depend largely on voluntary contributions for their existence and continued success, form valuable auxiliaries to official agencies in dealing with the problem of vagrancy.

Fire Brigade.

91. The Calcutta Fire Brigade is now housed in a more suitable building in Corporation Place, and a new fire-station has been opened for the protection of the congested area near Harrison Road.

Criminal Justice.

[Report on the Administration of Criminal Justice in the Province of Bengal for the year 1913. Statistics of British India, Part VI—Administrative and Judicial.]

Judicial staff.

92. For sessions work, the staff consisted of 21 Sessions Judges and 6 Additional Sessions Judges employed throughout the year. Five Subordinate Judges were vested with the powers of Assistant Sessions Judge. They were employed in five districts, where they decided 17, 16, 9, 5 and 1 cases, respectively. Besides the above, temporary additional Sessions Judges were employed during the year in the districts of Bakarganj, Burdwan, Dacca, Hooghly and the 24-Parganas.

The magisterial staff employed at the close of the year, including that of the Presidency town, consisted of 346 stipendiary and 819 Honorary Magistrates. These figures represent a decrease of 18 and 25, respectively, on the numbers of the previous year. Two special Magistrates were employed in Bakarganj and Noakhali, and they decided 219 cases. Of the 346 stipendiary Magistrates, 234 exercised first, 81 second and 31 third class powers. There were 129 Benches of Magistrates constituted from among 751 Honorary Magistrates in the mufassal. Of the total, 103 were

independent, and 26 were restricted to the trial of cases under the Municipal Act.

Offences reported.

93. There were 352,387 criminal offences reported during the year, an increase of 19,318 on the figures of 1912. Of the total, 178,529 were under the Indian Penal Code and 173,858 under special and local laws. These totals exceed those of 1912 by 4,546 and 14,772, respectively. The increase under both heads was most marked in Tippera, followed by Faridpur, Jessore and Birbhum as regards offences under the Penal Code and by the Presidency Town and the 24-Parganas as regards offences under special and local laws.

False cases.

94. The number of cases found to be false, or in which complaints were dismissed, was 64,605 or 18·3 per cent. of the number reported during the year. These figures include cases pending inquiry at the close of 1912. The percentage for the preceding year was 18·9. Complaints were dismissed in 58,915 cases, or 2,290 more than in 1912. The number of cases declared to be false after trial or inquiry was 5,690, or 684 less than in 1912.

True cases.

95. Of the total number of cases under inquiry, 288,095 were found to be true, and of these. 245,052 were brought to trial. Inquiries were pending at the close of the year in 14,213 cases. Compared with 1912, the number of cases found to be true and the number brought to trial show an increase of 18,723 and 15,220, respectively.

ORIGINAL JURISDICTION.

I.—Magistrates' Courts.

Total cases for trial.

96. Of the total number of cases brought to trial, 112,200 were in the courts of the Police and Municipal Magistrates in the Presidency town, and 132,852 in the courts of Magistrates in the mufassal.

(A) Presidency Magistrates, Calcutta. Cases for trial.

97. The number of cases brought before Presidency Magistrates, including the Municipal Magistrate, was 9,444 greater than in 1912. The number of cases under special and local laws rose from 92,820 to 103,449, while cases under the Penal Code fell from 9,936 to 8,751. The increase under the former head was most marked in offences under the Police Act, which rose from 55,798 to 62,735. The number of offences under the Hackney and Stage Carriages Acts also rose from 512 to 3,194. Under the Penal Code, there was a decrease from 5,451 to 4,652 in offences affecting the public health, safety, etc. Before Presidency Magistrates, other than the Municipal Magistrate, 94,843 cases were disposed of during the year, of which 88,300 were before stipendiary Magistrates, 6,423 before Honorary Magistrates sitting singly, and 120 before Benches. In 1912, the same officers disposed of 85,262 cases, of which 79,552 were before stipendiary Magistrates, 5,640 before Honorary Magistrates sitting singly, and 70 before Benches. Seventy-six cases were pending at the close of the year. Of the total number disposed of, 52 were committed to the High Court, and the remainder were finally decided by Magistrates, 300 under ordinary, and the remainder under summary procedure. The number of witnesses examined before the Police Magistrates rose from 21,845 to 22,273. The number of cases brought before the court of the Municipal Magistrate was 17,416, all of which were cases under the Municipal Act. The number of cases disposed of was 17,420, of which 16,594 were decided under the summary procedure; and 1 case remained pending at the close of the year. Compared with 1912, the number of cases instituted and disposed of shows a decrease of 27 and 19 respectively.

Results of trials.

98. The aggregate number of persons under trial before the Presidency Magistrates, other than the Municipal Magistrate, was 101,478. Of the persons tried, 17,313 were acquitted or discharged, 83,915 were convicted, 11 persons died, 2 persons were transferred for trial to other districts, 66 were committed to the sessions, and 171 remained under trial at the close of the year. Of persons acquitted or discharged, the cases of 13,582 were compounded, withdrawn or dismissed for default. Of persons tried for offences under the Penal Code, 6,362 were convicted and 3,760 acquitted or discharged

The results of trials before each class of Magistrates during the year are shown below :—

		Acquitted or discharged.	Convicted.	Percentage of conviction.
Stipendiary Magistrates	...	15,678	78,454	83·3
Benches of Magistrates	...	120	37	23·5
Honorary Magistrates singly.	sitting	1,515	5,424	78·1

Of the persons convicted, 3,451 were punished with rigorous imprisonment, the sentence in the case of 12 persons including terms of solitary confinement, 1,815 were punished with simple imprisonment, 71,954 with fine and 580 with whipping. One hundred and sixty-seven of the persons sentenced to fine, and 2 of those sentenced to whipping were so sentenced in addition to other punishments. Two sentences of whipping were not carried out, the orders being set aside by the High Court on a reference made to it by the trying Magistrate. Thirty sentences of imprisonment passed on youthful offenders were commuted to detention in a Reformatory school. Four thousand nine hundred and twenty-two convicted persons were warned and discharged.

In addition to these sentences, 386 persons were required to furnish security for good behaviour, of whom 373 were imprisoned in default for terms not exceeding one year; 68 persons convicted of offences involving a breach of the peace were ordered to execute bonds to keep the peace; 94 persons were released on probation under section 562, Criminal Procedure Code; and various miscellaneous orders were passed under special laws in the cases of 842 persons. The number of persons released upon probation of good conduct shows a decrease of 7 as compared with 1912.

Before the Municipal Magistrate, 20,358 persons were under trial, of whom 19,736 were convicted, 621 were acquitted or discharged, and 1 remained under trial at the close of the year. The number of witnesses examined was 4,683, or 274 less than in 1912. The percentage of convictions was 96·9. Of the persons convicted, 13,090 were punished with fines, and the others were ordered to comply with the various requirements of the rules and bye-laws of the Corporation.

(B) Magistrates outside Calcutta. Cases for trial.

99. At the opening of the year, 4,845 cases, besides cases of lunatics, were pending before Magistrates outside Calcutta. During the year, 133,095 cases, including references under sections 347 and 349, Criminal Procedure Code, were brought to trial, and 132,508 were disposed of, 5,394 remaining pending at its close. The number of cases brought to trial exceeded that in 1912 by 5,963. Under the Indian Penal Code the increase was chiefly in offences against property (2,316). On the other hand, the decrease was most marked in offences affecting the public health (624). There was an increase in cases under special and local laws. The variations under the other heads call for no remark.

An increase in the number of cases instituted is reported from 22 districts, and a decrease from 4. The increase was most marked in Dacca (1,318), Jessore (880), the 24-Parganas (745), Tippera (646), Burdwan (538), Faridpur (537), and Hooghly (422); while the decrease was greatest in Mymensingh (1,525). The increase in Dacca was both under the Penal Code and under special and local laws, and was most marked under the former head, in offences against property, and in offences affecting the human body.

The disposals were distributed as follows :—

	Tried regularly.	Tried summarily.
District Magistrates	1,452	186
Subordinate stipendiary Magistrates ...	69,965	39,203
Honorary Magistrates	10,756	1,382
Benches of Magistrates	3,707	5,583
Special Magistrates	219	...

In addition to the cases shown above, District and Sub-Divisional Magistrates decided 55 cases referred to them under sections 347 and 349 of the Code of Criminal Procedure. The number of cases decided during the year

exceeded the number decided in 1912 by 5,870. The increase occurred in the courts of subordinate stipendiary Magistrates, Honorary Magistrates, Benches of Magistrates and special Magistrates, who disposed of 4,427, 1,824, 568 and 123 cases more, respectively, than in the preceding year. The number of cases disposed of by District Magistrates shows a decrease of 1,072, as compared with 1912. The District Magistrate of Bakarganj decided the largest number of cases (538) and the District Magistrate of Mymensingh the second largest number (304).

Results of trials.

100. Of the total number of cases brought to trial 1,207 were committed or referred to the sessions, and 131,301 were finally disposed of by Magistrates. In the latter, 182,253 persons were accused, this number being 8,894 more than in 1912. Of the total, 94,883 or 52·1 per cent. were convicted, and 87,370 or 47·9 per cent. were acquitted or discharged. In 1912, 53·4 per cent. of the persons tried were convicted. Of the persons acquitted or discharged, the cases of 43,904 were compounded, withdrawn or dismissed for default. The percentage of convictions of persons actually tried was 68·5, against 70·4 in 1912. Of the persons tried for offences under the Indian Penal Code, 33,829, or 32·1 per cent., were convicted, and 71,601, or 67·9 per cent., were acquitted or discharged. Of the latter, the cases of 38,818 persons were compounded, withdrawn or dismissed for default. The percentage of convictions of persons actually tried under the Penal Code was 50·7. In 1912 the percentage of such convictions was 54. The total number of persons awaiting trial before Magistrates at the close of 1913 was 9,668 as compared with 9,198 in 1912. Eighteen of these had been awaiting trial for more than six months; all were on bail. Explanations of the delay in the disposal of all cases pending for more than three months were submitted by the Magistrates concerned and considered by the High Court, who passed necessary orders on them. The number of persons in custody at the close of the year was 595 against 489 in 1912.

The general result of trials before Magistrates of each class was as follows:—

	Acquitted or discharged.	Convicted.	Percentage of conviction.
Benches of Magistrates ...	4,290	6,879	61·5
Subordinate stipendiary Magistrates	70,885	80,933	53·3
Honorary Magistrates ...	9,937	6,488	39·5
Special Magistrates ...	238	24	9·1
District Magistrates ...	2,020	559	21·6

Of the persons shown above as convicted, 47,899 were tried summarily, *viz.*, 5,177 by Benches of Magistrates; 41,142 by subordinate stipendiary Magistrates; 1,335 by Honorary Magistrates, and 245 by District Magistrates.

The mode of trial of the total number of persons convicted and the nature of the sentences passed were as follows:—

	Appealable sentence.	Non-appealable sentence.
On regular trial	33,994	12,990
On summary trial	4,068	43,831

Punishments.

101. The sentences passed on persons convicted were as follows:—

Imprisonment ...	Rigorous	14,238
	Simple	613
Fine	With imprisonment ...	2,469
	Without imprisonment ...	72,945
Whipping ...	Sole punishment	393
	Additional punishment ...	4

A term of solitary confinement was included in 70 of the sentences of rigorous imprisonment, and in the case of 36 youthful offenders the sentence

of imprisonment was commuted to one of detention in a Reformatory school. Two thousand seven hundred and fifty-one persons were called upon to give security to be of good behaviour, 2,525 of whom were sentenced to terms of imprisonment not exceeding one year on failing to comply with the orders. Four hundred and forty-nine persons, against 382 in 1912, were releasd on probation under section 562 of the Code of Criminal Procedure. Against persons who had previously been so released, proceedings were subsequently taken in 32 cases involving 35 persons, of whom 34 were convicted and punished. In addition to substantive punishments, 4,615 persons were required to execute bonds to keep the peace, 1,346 on conviction of offences involving a breach of the peace. Of the sentences of imprisonment imposed, 2,737 were for terms not exceeding 15 days. 10,140 for terms not exceeding 6 months, 4,444 for terms not exceeding 2 years, and 19 for terms exceeding 2 years.

Sentences of whipping were passed on 397 persons as against 299 in the preceding year. The fines imposed aggregated Rs. 6,59,236. Rupees 5,90,842 were realised, of which Rs. 85,743 were paid as compensation to complainants.

Miscellaneous proceedings. Code of Criminal Procedure. Chapter VIII.

102. There were 2,686 proceedings involving 10,859 persons under chapter VIII, Criminal Procedure Code, to prevent a breach of the peace. The numbers of cases and persons were less than the numbers brought before the courts in 1912. Of the persons concerned, 3,269 were required to execute bonds to keep the peace, in addition to the persons mentioned in the preceding paragraph as having been similarly bound down on conviction. The number of persons dealt with under this chapter was largest in Bakarganj (1,758), Mymensingh (1,283), Dacca (1,022), and Jessore (1,001). In Mymensingh there was a large decrease in the number of proceedings of this class, while the figures show a marked increase in Bakarganj and Dacca, as compared with 1912. In 1,492 cases, 3,562 persons were called upon to show cause why they should not give security to be of good behaviour, and the orders were made absolute against 2,957. Of these 2,731 failed to give the required security and were imprisoned in default, 206 after reference to the court of session under section 123 of the Code and 2,525 under orders of Magistrates for terms not exceeding one year.

Chapters X, XII and XXXVI.

103. Proceedings for the abatement of nuisances under chapter X of the Code were taken in 708 cases and in the cases of 83 persons a reference was made to a jury under section 138 of the Code. The number of cases under chapter XII of the Code, involving questions of the possession of land, decided by Magistrates, was 1,558, a decrease of 412 on the figures for 1912. Under section 250 of the Code, 586 complainants were ordered to pay compensation to accused persons, their accusations having been found to be frivolous or vexatious. Proceedings for maintenance under chapter XXXVI of the Code were taken against 865 persons, and orders were made absolute against 201.

Witnesses.

104. The number of witnesses examined in the courts of Magistrates in the mufassal was 357,564, as compared with 342,776 in 1912. The number who attended and were discharged without examination was 177,284, or 33·1 per cent. of the whole number in attendance. In the preceding year, the percentage was 32·2. The amount paid to witnesses on account of the expenses of their attendance rose from Rs. 1,15,081 in 1912 to Rs. 1,31,307 in 1913. Of the total number in attendance, 384,044 (71·8 per cent.) were discharged on the first day; 103,181 (19·3 per cent.) on the second; 34,425 (6·4 per cent.) on the third; and 13,198 (2·5 per cent.) after the third day. The number of witnesses detained for more than three days was 1,318 more than in 1912; on the other hand, the number of witnesses examined was larger.

II.—Courts of Session.

Commitments.

105. The number of cases committed for trial or referred during the year was 1,207, or 36 more than in 1912; and the number decided, including pending cases of the previous year, was 1,195, or 48 more than in 1912. There were 166 cases pending at the close of the year. Commitments increased in 16 districts and decreased in 10. The increase was marked

in the following districts : in Burdwan from 37 to 55 ; in Rajshahi from 14 to 30 ; in Midnapore from 46 to 60 ; in Bakarganj from 135 to 147 ; and in Dinajpur from 23 to 35. On the other hand, the decrease was noticeable in Hooghly from 47 to 24 ; in Pabna from 33 to 14 ; and in Dacca from 89 to 77. The number of commitments was again largest in Mymensingh (167).

Results of trials.

106. There were 3,021 persons, or 364 more than in 1912, under trial before courts of session. The cases of 2,538 persons were decided, and 466 remained under trial at the close of the year. Of the 2,538 persons tried, 1,418, or 55·8 per cent., were convicted, 1,015 were acquitted or discharged, and the cases of 105 persons were referred to the High Court under sections 307 and 374 of the Code of Criminal Procedure.

Punishments.

107. The following sentences were passed by the courts of session :—

Death		29
Transportation ...	for life	92
	for a term of years ...	40
Imprisonment ...	rigorous	1,055
	simple	6
Fine		61
Whipping		3

In the cases of 14, out of the 1,055 persons sentenced to rigorous imprisonment, the sentences included terms of solitary confinement. Forty-nine of the sentences of fine were additional punishments. Besides the above, 206 persons were sentenced to rigorous or simple imprisonment (11 for terms not exceeding one year and 195 for terms between one year and three years) on failure to furnish security for good behaviour ; and 10 persons, who had been convicted of offences involving a breach of the peace, were required to execute bonds with sureties to keep the peace in addition to their substantive punishment.

Sentences of imprisonment were passed for the following terms :—

Not exceeding ...	15 days		6
	6 months		119
	2 years		301
	7 „		796
Exceeding ...	7 „		45

Fines to the amount of Rs. 4,250 were imposed by courts of session, as compared with Rs. 5,470 imposed in the preceding year. The total realisations of the year aggregated Rs. 1,706, as compared with Rs. 1,633 in 1912. The amount of fines realised and paid as compensation was Rs. 905 in 1913, as compared with Rs. 37 in 1912.

Jury trials.

108. The number of persons tried by jury was 1,099, and of the persons so tried, the Sessions Judge approved of the verdict of the jury in respect of 898 persons, and disapproved of it in respect of 201. The Sessions Judge disagreed with the verdict of the jury in regard to 76 persons and referred the cases to the High Court under section 307 of the Code of Criminal Procedure. The results of these references are given under the head "Superintendence, Reference and Revision."

Trials with the aid of assessors.

109. The number of persons tried with the aid of assessors was 1,049. In the cases of 639 persons, the Sessions Judge concurred with the opinion of both the assessors, in the cases of 158 he differed from the opinion of one, and in the cases of 252 he differed from the opinion of both the assessors. The corresponding figures of 1912 were 932,699, 104 and 129, respectively.

Duration of cases.

110. The average duration of sessions trials, from the date of commitment to the date of decision, rose from 38·8 days in 1912 to 40·6 days in 1913. Notice was, as usual, taken by the High Court of all cases of unusual duration. The duration of cases was notably high in the districts of Khulna (64·8 days), Jessore (61 days), Howrah (54·1 days), the 24-Parganas (52 days), Bankura (50·6 days), Nadia (47·7 days) and Mymensingh (46 days). The increase in the duration of cases from 26·5 to 50·6 days in Bankura, from 39·2 to 61 days in Jessore, from 44·9 to 64·8 days in Khulna, and from 28·6 to 42·2 days in

Midnapore, is noticeable; there was a marked reduction from 59·1 to 34·4 days in Burdwan and from 45·7 to 33·5 days in Birbhum.

Witnesses.

111. The number of witnesses in attendance before the courts of session was 21,589. Of these, 12,169 were examined and 9,420 discharged without examination. In 1912, the corresponding figures were 11,504 and 9,249, respectively. Of the total number in attendance, 9,982 (46·2 per cent.) were discharged on the first day; 6,700 (31 per cent.) on the second day; 2,779 (12·9 per cent.) on the third day; and 2,128 (9·9 per cent.) after the third day. The proportion of witnesses discharged after the third day is smaller than in 1912 (11·1 per cent.). The High Court has taken due notice of cases of excessive detention of witnesses, in reviewing the district reports. The amount paid to witnesses on account of the expenses incurred by them in attending sessions trials was Rs. 52,185, as compared with Rs. 56,921 in 1912.

Commitments, etc., to the High Court.

112. Four cases were pending at the opening of the year, and 52 cases were brought to trial in the High Court during the year. Of these, 53 were tried during the year, and 3 remained undecided at its close. Altogether 68 persons were tried, of whom 47 were convicted and 21 acquitted. The number of witnesses examined was 367, and the average duration of cases from commitment was 27·3 days against 37·7 days in 1912.

APPELLATE JURISDICTION.

I.—High Court.

Appeals.

113. At the opening of 1913, there were 27 appeals pending before the High Court from sentences or orders of criminal courts. During the year, 682 appeals were preferred, and 675 were decided, leaving 34 pending at its close. The numbers preferred and decided were 58 and 10 more, respectively, than in the preceding year. The pending file shows an increase of 7. Of the appeals against sentences, 517 were from courts of session and 161 were from Presidency Magistrates. Four appeals were preferred by the local Government against orders of acquittal.

Result of appeals.

114. Five hundred and eleven appeals against sentences of courts of session were decided. The orders of the lower courts were upheld in 410 instances, reversed in 28, and modified in 65. Seven cases were remanded for retrial, and the proceedings were quashed in one. One hundred and sixty appeals from the orders of Magistrates of the Presidency town were decided, the orders being confirmed in 151 cases, and modified and reversed in 4 each. One case was remanded for retrial. The results of the appeals decided, as affecting individuals, were that the appeals of 707 persons were summarily dismissed under section 421 of the Code of Criminal Procedure, and that in admitted appeals, sentences on 169 appellants were confirmed, on 22 enhanced, on 74 reduced or altered, and on 79 annulled. In the cases of 12 a new trial or further inquiry was ordered.

Appeals against acquittals.

115. Four appeals by the local Government against orders of acquittal were decided. Of these, two were against orders of acquittal passed by Sessions Judges; one against an order of acquittal passed by a Deputy Magistrate; and one against an order of acquittal passed by a Sub-Deputy Magistrate.

Of the two appeals against the orders of Sessions Judges, one was dismissed by the High Court; in the other case, a retrial was ordered. Of the remaining two cases, in one the appeal was dismissed; in the other case, in which the accused was charged with an offence under section 82 (*a*) and (*c*) of Act III of 1877, the order of acquittal was set aside and the accused was sentenced to six months' rigorous imprisonment.

II.—Appellate Courts subordinate to the High Court.

Sessions Courts.

116. There were 198 appeals pending before the courts of session at the opening of the year. During the year, 3,656 appeals were preferred, 3,674 were decided, and 191 remained pending at its close. The number of appeals

preferred was 153 more than in 1912. In the appeals decided, 6,014 persons were concerned. The appeals of 1,308 of these, or 21·7 per cent., were summarily dismissed; 2,424 appellants, whose appeals were admitted, were altogether unsuccessful; 915 obtained a reduction or alteration of sentence, and 1,270 were acquitted; in the cases of 97 appellants, a new trial or further inquiry was ordered.

Magistrates' courts.

117. In the courts of Magistrates, 148 appeals were pending at the opening of the year. During the year, 3,842 appeals were preferred, 3,774 were decided and 205 remained pending at its close. The number preferred was 305 more than in 1912. The number of persons whose appeals were decided by courts of Magistrates was 6,249. Of these, the appeals of 1,119 were summarily dismissed and the sentences on 2,656, whose appeals were admitted, were confirmed, making a total of 3,775 wholly unsuccessful appellants, or 60·4 per cent. Of the remainder, 771 appellants, or 12·3 per cent., obtained a modification of the sentences passed on them, and 1,589, or 25·4 per cent., their total annulment. In the case of 113 appellants, a new trial or further inquiry was ordered, and one case was referred to the High Court. Compared with 1912, the results were less favourable to appellants.

SUPERINTENDENCE, REFERENCE AND REVISION.

I.—High Court.

References under section 307, Code of Criminal Procedure.

118. Six references under section 307 of the Code of Criminal Procedure from verdicts of juries were pending in the High Court at the opening of the year, and 33 were made during the year. Thirty-six of these references were decided during the year and 3 remained undecided at its close. The result of the thirty-six cases disposed of was that the verdict of the jury was accepted in 9 cases, set aside in 20 and modified in 7.

References under section 374, Code of Criminal Procedure.

119. Twenty-two references under section 374 of the Code of Criminal Procedure for confirmation of death sentences were made to the High Court during 1913, and 2 were pending at the opening of the year. Nineteen were decided during the year, 26 persons being concerned: the death sentences on 9 were confirmed, and in the cases of 7, the sentence was commuted to transportation for life. In the case of one person, a sentence of seven years' rigorous imprisonment was substituted; 9 persons were acquitted.

Revision.

120. During the year, 215 cases were reported for the orders of the High Court by Sessions Judges and District Magistrates under section 438 of the Code of Criminal Procedure, and 11 were pending at the opening of the year. Of these, 216 were decided, and 10 remained pending. The number reported was 37 more than in 1912. In 101 cases, the orders sent up for revision were set aside, or the proceedings quashed, and in 29 a new trial was ordered. Sentences were reduced or altered in 17 cases, and enhanced in 4. In the remaining 65 cases the High Court declined to interfere.

Under section 435 of the Code of Criminal Procedure, orders were passed in 1,372 cases, an increase of 197 on the figures of the previous year. Of these 1,353 came before the High Court on applications made to it, and 19 were taken up on review of sessions statements, or otherwise of its own motion.

Of the applications for the issue of rules 747 were rejected. Of 606 rules issued, 185 were finally discharged; 236 were made absolute in their entirety; the orders complained of were modified in 113 cases and quashed in 9; in 60 cases a new trial was ordered; and in 3 cases orders for transfer to other courts for trial were passed.

In 9 out of the 19 cases taken up by the High Court on review of sessions statements, or otherwise of its own motion, the order passed by the lower court was not disturbed; in 1 the sentence was reversed, in 1 reduced and in 8 enhanced.

Applications for transfer.

121. One hundred and four applications under section 526 of the Code of Criminal Procedure for the transfer of cases (91 original cases and 13 appeals) from one court or district to another were on the file; 102 were disposed of; and 2 remained pending at the close of the year. Thirty-four were summarily rejected, and in 4 cases transfers were granted without

the issue of a rule. In 64 cases rules were issued with the result that transfers were granted in 44 and refused in 20 cases.

II.—Courts subordinate to the High Court.

Sessions Courts.

122. Including accused persons who themselves applied for revision of the orders passed on them in the courts of Magistrates, and accused persons against whom such applications were made by complainants, the cases of 8,891 persons were decided on revision by courts of session during the year. The number was 1,481 more than in 1912. The applications of 3,104 persons were rejected, and as regards 2,827 the orders of the lower court were confirmed. Orders passed in the cases of 65 persons were reversed; in 9 instances proceedings were quashed; and the order of the lower court was modified in the cases of 11 persons. The cases of 384 persons were referred to the High Court, and in the cases of 2,491 persons, new trials or further inquiries were ordered.

Magistrates' Courts.

123. The cases of 3,355 accused persons who applied for revision, or against whom applications were made by complainants, came before District Magistrates for revision. The number was 51 less than in 1912. The applications of 852 persons were rejected, and in the cases of 1,189 the original sentence or order was upheld. Sentences or orders affecting 14 persons were modified, and those affecting 261 were reversed. In the cases of 31 persons proceedings were quashed, and in those of 956 new trials or further inquiries were directed. The cases of 52 persons were referred to the High Court.

III.—General.

Trial of European British subjects.

124. The cases of 57 European British subjects were decided during the year, as against 48 in the previous year. Of these, 55 were dealt with by Magistrates, and 2 by courts of session. Of the accused persons, 3 claimed to be tried by a mixed jury. In the cases disposed of by Magistrates, 44 persons were convicted and 11 acquitted. The convictions were in 23 cases for offences under special and local laws; in 9 cases for offences affecting the human body; in 8 cases for offences against property; in 2 cases for offences affecting the public health, safety, convenience, etc.; in 1 case for false evidence; and in 1 case for criminal intimidation, etc. The two cases before the court of session resulted in the acquittal of the accused. In one the accused was charged with the offence of criminal breach of trust, and in the other with an offence relating to documents, etc. The number of European British subjects tried was largest in Darjeeling (16).

Results of Criminal Work.

125. During the year under review, there was a further increase in the criminal work disposed of by the lower courts both in the Presidency town and in the mufassal. In the courts of session there was an increase in the disposal of original, appellate and revisional work. The appellate and revisional work in the High Court also increased. In Bakarganj 38 persons were under trial for offences against the State. Of these, 12 were acquitted and 26 remained under trial at the close of the year.

Receipts and charges.

126. Debiting, as usual, to the administration of criminal justice, a portion of the salaries of judicial officers calculated according to the time which their returns show them to have devoted to it, the total charges for the year amounted to Rs. 27,57,514. Of this, an amount of Rs. 15,41,132 was for the salaries of judicial officers; Rs. 1,41,782 for fixed and temporary copying establishments; Rs. 74,536 for process-servers; Rs. 4,72,244 for other establishments; and Rs. 5,27,818 for contingencies and refunds. The receipts amounted to Rs. 16,42,266. Of this, an amount of Rs. 7,93,343 was realised under fines; Rs. 1,88,085 under process fees; Rs. 1,72,116 under copying and comparing fees; Rs. 4,14,978 under court-fee stamp receipts other than the above; and Rs. 73,744 was miscellaneous receipts. The receipts and charges exceeded those of 1912 by over Rs. 78,000 and Rs. 1,17,000, respectively.

CRIMINAL JUSTICE IN THE SCHEDULED DISTRICT OF THE CHITTAGONG HILL TRACTS.

Chittagong Hill Tracts.

127. The number of cases brought to trial during 1913 in the scheduled district of Chittagong Hill Tracts was 130. The total number of cases disposed of was 132. The number of witnesses examined was 425. The total number of persons under trial, including those awaiting trial from the preceding year, was 312 ; of these 143 were acquitted or discharged and 163 convicted. Of the cases brought to trial, 12 were for criminal force and assault, 37 for theft, 12 for mischief and 25 for offences under special and local laws. The total number of appellants and applications for revision was 48, of whom 11 were wholly or partly successful.

Jails.

[The report on the Administration of the Jail Department in the Presidency of Bengal for the year 1913—Statistics of British India, Part VI—Judicial.]

Presidency Jail.

128. A noteworthy incident of the year's administration was the closing of the old Presidency Jail situated on the Maidan. The original jurisdiction of the High Court was extended so as to include the jail known as the Alipore Central Jail, which will henceforth be utilized and designated as the Presidency Jail.

Jail population.

129. The effect of the release of prisoners, on the occasion of the celebration of the Imperial Durbar at Delhi, in decreasing the jail population has almost ceased to be felt, and the daily average strength of convicted prisoners in confinement has risen from 10,091 to 10,611. The number of prisoners in jail at the close of the year increased by 769 ; while the number of reconvicted prisoners rose from 3,771 to 5,020, an increase of 3 per cent. of the total number of convicts admitted. The number of convicts whipped during the year rose from 45 to 56 and the ratio of whippings to total punishment was 0·21 against 0·20 of the previous year. There was an increase in the proportion of convicts undergoing sentences not exceeding one month. It now amounts to more than one-third of the convicts imprisoned.

Health and mortality of prisoners.

130. The death-rate among prisoners declined from 21·7 to 20·1 and is lower than it has been during the last five years. A distinct improvement was noticeable in the case of some of the more unhealthy jails. A few outbreaks of cholera were promptly checked, and deaths from malaria declined by over 50 per cent. Though dysentery was more prevalent, it is satisfactory to note that in 14 jails no deaths resulted from this cause.

Juvenile offenders.

131. The "Star Class" system in force in the Juvenile Jail at Alipore has continued to give good results : the boys received elementary education and instruction in certain trades in order to enable them to obtain employment on their release. A special ward has been opened in the Juvenile Jail for the accommodation of juvenile offenders undergoing trial. All Central Jails and some of the larger District Jails are provided with special juvenile wards ; while a depôt for the reception of young female offenders has been opened in the Midnapore Central Jail.

Warder and jailor establishments.

132. Proposals for increasing the pay of the Warder establishment and granting them pensions have received sympathetic consideration from Government.

Jail manufactures.

133. The value of the goods disposed of by the Jail depôt fell from Rs. 73,864 to Rs. 68,488. The supplies to other departments of Government decreased in value from Rs. 27,960 in 1912 to Rs. 22,946 during the year. Arrangements have been made for the supply to the Sanitation Department of quinine made up into standardized "treatments."

Civil Justice.

[Report on the Administration of Civil Justice in the Presidency of Bengal for the year 1913. Statistics of British India, Part VI—Administrative and Judicial.]

Judicial staff.

134. The permanent civil judicial staff employed in the Province during 1913 consisted of 15 High Court Judges, 21 District Judges, 6 Additional

District Judges, a Chief Judge and 4 Judges of the Presidency Small Cause Court, 3 Provincial Small Cause Court Judges who exercised also the powers of a Subordinate Judge, 43 Subordinate Judges and 235 Munsifs. In addition, 4 executive officers exercised the powers of a Subordinate Judge or Small Cause Court Judge, and 2 the powers of a Munsif. Including the four Additional Judges appointed to the High Court in 1912 in pursuance of section 3 of the Indian High Courts Act, 1911 (1 & 2 Geo. 5, Cap. 18), the total number of Judges was 19, as in the previous year.

The following changes in the *personnel* of the High Court took place during the year :—

The Hon'ble Mr. Justice Teunon, the Hon'ble Mr. Justice Richardson, and the Hon'ble Mr. Justice Ashutosh Chaudhuri, who were acting as Additional Judges, were confirmed as Judges of the High Court with effect from the 14th and 29th January and the 15th November 1913, respectively, *vice* the Hon'ble Mr. Justice Caspersz, the Hon'ble Mr. Justice Brett and the Hon'ble Mr. Justice Harington, resigned. The Hon'ble Mr. Justice Beachcroft, the Hon'ble Mr. Justice Chapman and the Hon'ble Mr. Justice Mullick were appointed as additional Judges in the resulting vacancies. The Hon'ble Mr. Justice Digambar Chatarji, the Hon'ble Mr. Justice Carnduff, the Hon'ble Mr. Justice Holmwood and the Hon'ble Mr. Justice Harington availed themselves of furlough with effect from the 11th March, the 20th March, the 2nd April, and the 17th April, 1913, respectively, and the Hon'ble Mr. Justice Hari Nath Roy, the Hon'ble Mr. Justice Newbould, the Hon'ble Mr. Justice Walmsley, and the Hon'ble Mr. Justice Mullick were appointed to act in those vacancies. The Hon'ble Mr. Justice Chapman and the Hon'ble Mr. Justice Mullick also officiated as Judges of the High Court, *vice* the Hon'ble Mr. Justice Woodroffe on leave and the Hon'ble Mr. Justice Brett, retired, till their appointment as Additional Judges. The Hon'ble Mr. Justice Woodroffe resumed his seat in the High Court on return from leave on the 19th May.

In addition to the permanent staff, the following temporary appointments in the subordinate courts were sanctioned during the year :—

The appointment of the second Additional District Judge for land acquisition work in the 24-Parganas was sanctioned permanently with effect from the 24th September 1913.

Temporary additional District Judges were employed in the following districts :—One in Bakarganj, one in Burdwan, one in Dacca, one in Hooghly and two in the 24-Parganas.

An additional Judge was employed in the Presidency Small Cause Court from the 21st February.

Temporary additional Subordinate Judges were employed at Mymensingh, Dacca and Midnapore, with effect from the 9th May, the 21st July and the 1st November, respectively, till the 2nd November, when they were made permanent. Six appointments of extra Subordinate Judges were permanently sanctioned for Chittagong, Rajshahi, Noakhali, Howrah, the 24-Parganas and Bogra with effect from the 2nd November. Temporary additional Munsifs were employed at Dacca-Narayanganj, Barisal-Bhola, Balurghat, Iswarganj, Jamalpur, Chittagong, Rampurhat, Comilla, Chandpur, Sudharam Feni, Khulna, Serajganj, Bhanga, Fatikchari, Gaibandha, Alipore and Kalna.

ORIGINAL JURISDICTION.

I.—High Court.

Original suits.

135. The number of civil suits pending on the Original Side of the High Court at the end of 1912 was 1,787, including 24 pending suits received by transfer from other courts ; and the number instituted during 1913 was 1,233 including 21 suits received by transfer from other courts and 4 remanded for retrial during the year, making a total of 3,020 for disposal in 1913. Of the suits instituted during 1913, 763 were for money or moveable property, 140

were mortgage suits, and 51 were for immoveable property. The value of suits for specific money claims was Rs. 72,56,788-13-2 as compared with Rs. 79,62,523-2-6 in the previous year.

The number of suits decided in 1913 was 1,413. and the number left undisposed of at the end of the year was 1,607. The number of suits under trial was 180 less than at the commencement of the year. There were 830 suits pending over one year, showing a decrease of 67 on the figures of the previous year.

Of the suits decided, 341 were dismissed for default or want of prosecution, 55 were withdrawn with leave, 27 were determined by compromise, 95 were decreed on confession, 319 were decreed *ex parte*, 8 were dismissed *ex parte*, 6 were disposed of by reference to arbitration, 428 were decreed after contest, and 134 were dismissed after contest.

Cases under the extraordinary jurisdicton.

136. At the commencement of the year, 4 suits were pending in the High Court in its extraordinary original civil jurisdiction, and 4 suits were transferred to it during the year. Five of these were disposed of during the year, and 3 remained pending at its close.

Probates and Letters of administration, etc.

137. Four hundred and twenty-eight petitions for probate and letters of administration were disposed of as well as 8,545 interlocutory applications (including applications for the appointment of guardians under the Guardians and Wards Act, 1890, for the appointment of guardians *ad litem*, for the appointment of receivers, for injunctions, for discovery of documents, for execution, etc.). Of the interlocutory applications, those for the appointment of guardians *ad litem*, for the discovery of documents, for special leave to file written statements after time, for summonses as to chamber applications, and for summonses to witnesses, were disposed of by the Registrar and the Master. The number of such applications was 3,297. The remaining applications (5,248) were disposed of by the Court or by a Judge in chambers.

References to take accounts, etc.

138. The number of references to take accounts, to make enquiries as to estates to be administered or partitioned, as to debts and incumbrances, as to allowances to be made for maintenance, on questions of title, on questions affecting minors in proposed terms of settlement, to settle conveyances, etc., pending at the commencement of the year, was 142. Fresh references were directed by the Court in 361 cases. Of the total number of references, 286 were disposed of by the Registrar, the Official Referee and Master and their assistants.

Conveyances and sureties.

139. During the year, the Registrar settled 18 conveyances and inquired into the sufficiency of sureties in 64 cases. The Registrar further inquired into the sufficiency of sureties in 201 matters in which administration bonds were executed.

Appeals from the original jurisdiction.

140. The number of appeals from the Original to the Appellate Side of the Court pending at the commencement of 1913 was 25, and 107 new appeals were preferred. Of these appeals, 5 were dismissed for default and 34 were decided ; the decrees of the Court of first instance were affirmed in 12 cases, modified in 8, and reversed in 10. Four cases were remanded for retrial. Ninety-three appeals remained undecided at the close of the year, none of which had been pending for more than two years.

References from the Calcutta Small Cause Court.

141. At the commencement of the year four references were pending. No references were either made or decided during the year under review.

Transfers from the Calcutta Small Cause Court.

142. Sixteen cases transferred from the Calcutta Court of Small Causes under section 39 of the Presidency Small Cause Court Act, 1882, were pending at the commencement of the year, and during the year 11 applications under that section were made to the High Court for transfer to that court. All the applications were granted. Of the 27 cases for disposal, 3 were decreed, 3 were dismissed after trial, 4 were dismissed for default, and 2 were decreed *ex parte*. The remaining 15 cases were pending at the close of the year. Twenty applications under section 115 of the Code of Civil Procedure for the calling of records from the Calcutta Court of Small Causes were pending at the commencement of the year, and 26 such applications were made to the High Court during the year. Of these, 5 applications

were refused; in 11 cases the rules issued were discharged, in 6 cases the rules issued were made absolute, and 2 cases were remanded for retrial. Twenty-two cases were pending at the close of the year.

Insolvency cases.

143. The number of cases, under the old and new Acts, pending in the Insolvency Court at the commencement of the year was 191 and 631, respectively, and the number instituted during the year was 228. Of the 1,050 cases for disposal, 184 were disposed of, the adjudication being set aside or superseded or the petition being withdrawn or dismissed in 108 cases and the insolvents obtaining relief in 76. Of the 184 cases disposed of, 3 were under the repealed Indian Insolvency Act, 1848 (11 & 12 Vict., c. 21), and of the persons who sought relief in these cases, 2 were traders within the meaning of section 9 of that Act, and one was a private person.

Duration of sittings.

144. For the hearing of original suits and applications one Judge sat alone for 31 days, two Judges sat separately and simultaneously for 122 days, and three Judges sat separately and simultaneously for 54 days. The Insolvency Court engaged the time of one Judge for 14 days. Appeals from the Original Side occupied a bench of two Judges for 47 days and a bench of three Judges for 7 days. A special division bench consisting of three Judges also sat for 6 days during the year under review.

Appeals to the Privy Council.

145. Eight appeals from the Original Side were pending from the previous year, and 1 was admitted during the year. One of these appeals was disposed of during the year.

Receipts and expenditure.

146. The receipts and expenditure of the High Court in the Original Side during 1913 were Rs. 8,94,537-12-8 and Rs. 4,35,723-10-2, respectively.

Taxing office.

147. The number of bills between party and party taxed during the year was 1,186, and of bills between attorney and client 630. The court-fees for taxation during the year amounted to Rs. 28,507. This sum is also included in the item "other fees realised by means of stamps."

II.—Civil Courts in the Mufassal subordinate to the High Court.

Original suits instituted.

148. The number of suits instituted in 1913 was 622,322, a decrease of 3,819 on the figures of the previous year. The decrease occurred in money suits to the extent of 3·2 per cent. while there was an increase of 1·2 and 2·3 per cent. in the institutions of rent and title suits, respectively. The number of money suits instituted was 267,138 against 276,130 in 1912. The total value of suits instituted in 1913 amounted to Rs. 7,46,27,065, showing a decrease of over Rs. 70,00,000 from the total for 1912. The decrease is accounted for by the institution of fewer suits of high values during the year.

Local distribution.

149. Excluding Dinajpur, the statistics of which do not admit of comparison on account of the addition of Darjeeling to that district during the year 1912, there was a decrease in the number of suits instituted in 1913 in all the districts with the exception of the 24-Parganas, Murshidabad, Mymensingh, Bakarganj, Rangpur and Chittagong. The decrease was most marked in Pabna-Bogra, Nadia, Jessore and Rajshahi. The decrease in Pabna-Bogra and Rajshahi occurred chiefly in money suits, while in Nadia and Jessore it was conspicuous in title and rent suits, respectively. In each of these districts there has been a decline in institutions since 1911. The largest number of suits was instituted in the district of Mymensingh (60,122), the number of title suits (7,442) being the heaviest in the province. In no other district did the institutions reach 50,000. In Dacca, Bakarganj, the 24-Parganas and Tippera, the number of institutions was between 40,000 and 50,000. Money suits were most numerous in Dacca (33,269) and rent suits in Bakarganj (32,982). The second place in respect of the institution of rent suits is occupied by Midnapore. The number of institutions was between 30,000 and 40,000 in the districts of Midnapore, Faridpur and Rangpur, between 20,000 and 30,000 in Jessore, Chittagong, Hooghly, Noakhali, Murshidabad, Nadia and Pabna-Bogra and between 20,000 and 30,000 in Rajshahi, Khulna and Burdwan. Bankura with 12,350 and Birbhum with 11,833 show the lowest figures.

150. The majority of suits instituted were, as usual, for small sums, as the following figures show :— **Nature of suits instituted.**

		Suits for money and moveables.	Suits under the rent law.	Title and other Suits.
	Rs.			
Not exceeding ...	10	16,637	74,521	4,246
	50	116,609	141,752	19,546
	100	63,591	41,493	11,314
	500	65,231	26,897	25,065
Exceeding Rs. 500, or value not stated.		5,070	1,986	8,364
Total ...		267,138	286,649	68,535

In suits for money or moveables 49·8 per cent., and in rent suits 75·4 per cent., were for sums of less than Rs. 50. In suits under the rent law 98·6 per cent. were for realisation of arrears of rent Of the suits classified as title suits, 35·6 per cent. were mortgage suits, 46·2 suits for immoveable property and 8·2 suits for specific relief. The suits which come under this head represent in value more than one-third of the total litigation of the province. Of the 22 suits instituted during the year, which were valued at over a lakh, 21 were title suits, and one was a money suit.

151. In addition to the 622,322 suits instituted during the year and the 163,329 suits pending trial from the previous year, 10,982 suits were revived or received on remand or review, making a total for disposal of 796,633. The number of suits disposed of was 629,383, an increase of 4,736 on the figures of 1912. Of the total disposed of, 594,554 were disposed of by Munsifs, 16,751 by Subordinate Judges, 17,451 by Small Cause Court Judges and 627 by District and Additional Judges. The figures show an increase of disposals in all grades of courts. In the suits disposed of during the year, plaintiffs were unsuccessful in 135,659 cases, or 21·6 per cent., of which 101,135 were dismissed for default; in 76,937 cases, or 12·2 per cent., a compromise was effected ; and plaintiffs were successful in 416,787 cases, or 66·2 per cent. The results show little variation from those of the preceding year. Of the 114,153 suits decided on contest, 96,718, or 84·7 per cent., resulted in favour of plaintiffs, and 17,435, or 15·3 per cent., in favour of defendants. **Number and results of suits decided.**

152. The percentage of applications for retrial to the number of cases which were dismissed for default, or in which decrees were made *ex parte* was 5, the numbers being 20,745 and 413,884, respectively. The applications were successful in as many as 9,895 cases, or 47·6 per cent. **Applications for retrial.**

153. The number of suits disposed of by Munsifs rose from 590,515 to 594,554—an increase of 4,039. The average number of suits disposed of by each Munsif was 2,416 against 2,440 in 1912. Disposals under the Small Cause Court procedure formed 29·8 per cent. of the total. The number of contested suits disposed of by Munsifs was 106,280, or 17·8 per cent. of the total. The average number of contested suits decided by each Munsif was 432, against 435 in 1912. In suits under the ordinary procedure disposed of by Munsifs, the percentage of those contested was 18·8, and in suits under the Small Cause Court procedure, 15·3. The number of cases decided by Munsifs under the ordinary procedure shows an increase of 8,602, as compared with 1912. **Suits decided by Munsifs.**

154. The number of original suits disposed of by Subordinate Judges was 16,751, an increase of 307 on the figures of the previous year. The increase was in cases decided both under the ordinary procedure and in the exercise of Small Cause Court powers, and occurred chiefly in contested suits. **Suits heard by Subordinate Judges and by Small Cause Court Judges.**

The number of suits decided under the ordinary procedure was 3,750, and under the Small Cause Court procedure 13,001; of these, 37·4 per cent. and 21·3 per cent., respectively, were contested. The percentage of suits decided after contest under the Small Cause Court procedure shows a perceptible increase, while that of suits decided after contest under the ordinary procedure is slightly larger than in the previous year. The provincial Small Cause Courts disposed of 17,451 original suits, of which 3,463 were contested. The latter shows a decrease of 81 as compared with the previous year.

Average duration of cases.

155. The average duration of suits (contested and uncontested) decided by the several grades of courts is given in the following statement :—

		District Judges.	Subordinate Judges.	Munsifs.	Small Cause Court Judges.
		Days.	Days.	Days.	Days.
Under ordinary procedure.	Contested ...	209	465	218	...
	Uncontested	205	261	116	...
Under Small Cause Court procedure.	Contested ...	...	83	86	84
	Uncontested	...	61	58	55

With the exception of contested suits under the ordinary procedure decided by District Judges, the results show a general increase in the average duration of suits.

Pending suits.

156. The number of suits pending at the close of the year was 167,523 against 163,329 in the previous year. Of the pending cases, 4,641 had been pending for more than a year, 52,981 for more than six months, and 44,550 for more than three months. The figures show a slight reduction in the number of suits pending for more than a year, but a sensible rise in the number pending for more than six and three months. Of the suits pending over one year, 3,548 were in the courts of Munsifs and 1,093 in the courts of District and Subordinate Judges, the figures showing a decrease of 131 and an increase of 21, respectively, as compared with 1912. The number of suits pending over a year was largest in Nadia (627); the 24-Parganas (442); Pabna-Bogra (367); Noakhali (364); and Mymensingh (358). In each of these districts the congestion was principally in the Munsifs' courts. In Nadia the increase is considerable, and is due to the proceedings in most of the cases having been stayed by the order of the appellate court. In the 24-Parganas, Pabna-Bogra and Noakhali the number of year-old suits shows a decrease, as compared with 1912. As usual, the delays in these districts as well as in others were chiefly due to adjournments granted at the request of the parties. Additional assistance was given to those districts in which the files appeared to be too heavy for the normal stafi.

Execution proceedings.

157. There were 96,386 applications for execution of decrees pending from the previous year, and 424,645 applications were made during the year. Realization was complete in 125,383 cases and partial in 85,260. In 206,918 cases proceedings were returned as infructuous, and 94,505 remained pending at the close of the year. Execution proceedings were again markedly unsuccessful in Dacca, Tippera and Faridpur, the percentages of totally infructuous proceedings being 84·3, 65·9 and 56·4, respectively. The results show a perceptible improvement in the case of Faridpur (from 63·8 to 56·4). The total amount realised in courts other than Small Cause Courts was Rs. 1,61,17,334. Debtors were imprisoned in 133 cases; moveable property was sold in 8,372, and immoveable property in 52,753 cases.

Miscellaneous cases.

158. The number of miscellaneous cases of a judicial nature instituted rose from 68,782 to 70,032. The number disposed of and pending also rose from 69,573 and 17,123 to 69,819 and 17,858, respectively. Of the cases disposed of, 30,410 were withdrawn, compromised or confessed; 22,939 were decided *ex parte*; and 16,470 were contested. Of the total number of applications disposed of after contest, 51·4 per cent. were granted. Of the pending

cases, 83 had been pending more than a year, of which the largest number was in Faridpur (19). The miscellaneous cases of a non-judicial nature instituted were 12,622 in number, showing an increase of 763. Of these, over three-fourths were applications for the deposit of rent. Disposals numbered 12,749, and the pending file fell from 1,467 to 1,341. The number of applications for the deposit of rent was highest in the 24-Parganas (2,254), followed by Hooghly (1,314), and Rajshahi (1,050).

III.—Calcutta Small Cause Court.

Number of suits.

159. The number of suits instituted and decided in the Presidency Court of Small Causes during 1913, and the number pending at its close, were 22,349, 23,542 and 2,809, respectively. Institutions and disposals show a decrease of 83 and 896, respectively, while the number pending exceeded that in 1912 by 127. Forty applications were filed under section 626 of the Calcutta Municipal Act (Bengal Act III of 1899). The decrease in institutions was chiefly in suits valued at sums not exceeding Rs. 50 (4·3 per cent). The total value of the litigation was Rs. 44,03,527, as against Rs. 41,74,144 in the preceding year. The average duration of contested and uncontested suits was 55·9 and 35·7 days, respectively, against 70·3 and 37·3 days for 1912.

Mode of disposal.

160. Of the 23,542 suits disposed of, 1,561 were dismissed for default or want of prosecution, or were withdrawn with leave, 17,583 were decided without contest in the manner shown in the margin, 4,393 were decided after contest or upon reference to arbitration, and in 5 the plaint was either rejected or returned.

Compromised	...	5,903
Decreed on confession	...	3,859
Decreed *ex parte*	...	7,758
Dismissed *ex parte*	...	63
Total	...	17,583

APPELLATE JURISDICTION.

I.—High Court.

Appeals under the Letters Patent.

161. One hundred and seven appeals under section 15 of the Letters Patent were filed during the year, and 25 were pending at its commencement. Of the total, 39 were decided, and 93 remained pending at the close of the year. The number of appeals disposed of was 76 less than in 1912. Of the number undecided, none were pending for more than two years. One hundred and thirty-four third appeals were filed during the year, and 182 were pending at its commencement. Of these, 176 were decided, and 140 remained pending at the close of the year.

II.—Appeals from the Subordinate Civil Courts.

Appeals to the High Court from subordinate courts.

162. The statement in the margin shows the number of first and second appeals from the decrees and orders of the provincial courts as courts of original and appellate jurisdiction, respectively, which came before the High Court and were decided during the year. The figures include appeals from the courts of the provinces of Bihar and Orissa and of Assam. The institutions of first and second appeals from decrees were, respectively, 82 and 197 more than in 1912. The number of first and second appeals from orders fell short of the figures for 1912 by 17 and 36.

	Pending at the end of 1912.	Preferred.	Decided.	Pending at the end of 1913.
First Appeals.				
From decrees ...	1,481	565	435	1,611
„ orders ...	721	340	335	726
Second Appeals				
From decrees ...	8,605	4,324	4,645	8,284
„ orders ...	290	255	250	295
Total ...	11,097	5,484	5,665	10,916

Appeals pending.

163. At the close of the year, 2,337 first appeals were pending, of which 1,611 were from decrees, and 726 from orders, and 8,579 second appeals, of which 8,284 were from decrees. The total is 181 less than the number pending at the close of 1912.

Results of appeals.

164. Of the 435 appeals from original decrees decided, 47 were uncontested, being dismissed on default, withdrawn or compromised. The result of the appeals decided after contest was that the decrees of the lower courts were confirmed in 241 cases, reversed in 73, and varied in 61, while 13 cases were remanded. Of the 4,645 appeals from appellate decrees decided, 163 were uncontested, and 1,996 were dealt with under Order XLI, rule 11, of the Civil Procedure Code. Two thousand four hundred and eighty-six were heard and determined, with the result that 1,634 decrees of the lower courts were affirmed, 282 reversed and 290 varied, while 280 cases were remanded. Of the 585 appeals from orders decided 29 were uncontested, 146 were dealt with under order XLI, rule 11, of the Civil Procedure Code, and 410 were decided after trial, with the result that 253 orders of the lower courts were affirmed, 95 reversed and 17 varied, 45 cases being remanded. The following table shows the result of appeals decided by the High Court as affecting District Judges and Subordinate Judges :—

	Affirmed.		Modified or Reversed.	
	District Judges.	Subordinate Judges.	District Judges.	Subordinate Judges.
Appeals from original decrees	93	148	48	86
Appeals from appellate „ ...	783	851	429	143
Miscellaneous appeals ...	119	134	55	57

Appeals to the Privy Council.

165. At the opening of the year 50 appeals to the Privy Council were under preparation for despatch to England and 47 were pending for orders. Eighty-six new appeals were filed during the year. Of the total for disposal, 49 were struck off or compromised, 25 were despatched to England, and 109 appeals were pending at the close of the year—1 of 1902, 13 of 1910, 12 of 1911, 23 of 1912 and 60 of 1913. Of the pending appeals, 75 were under preparation for despatch to England at the close of the year.

Results of appeals to the Privy Council.

166. The results of 8 appeals to the Privy Council were received during the year. The decisions of the High Court were affirmed in 7 instances and reversed in 1.

III.—Appellate Courts subordinate to the High Court.

Appeals instituted.

167. Seventeen thousand and twenty-seven appeals were instituted in 1913, a decrease, as compared with the previous year, of 1,062. The decrease in appellate work contrasts with the increase in the number of suits disposed of by the subordinate courts. Of the appeals instituted, 7,785 were in title suits, 6,963 in rent suits, and 2,279 in suits for money or moveables. The numbers show a decrease in appeals in rent and title suits, but an increase in appeals in suits for money and moveables. The number of appeals valued at sums below Rs. 10 and between Rs. 10 and Rs. 50 was 1,877 and 5,902, respectively. The total value of the appeals instituted in the subordinate courts was Rs. 28,29,962, being over twelve thousand rupees less than the total of 1912. The number of appealable cases decided by subordinate courts was 74,869, and the proportion of appeals instituted to appealable decisions, excluding appeals from decisions of revenue officers, was 22·2 per cent., as against 24·7 in 1912. The highest percentages were 32·1 in Chittagong, 31·6 in Tippera, 31·5 in Noakhali and 30·4 in Dacca; and the lowest were in Rangpur (10·1), Dinajpur (11·3) and Murshidabad (15·5). Excluding Dinajpur, the number of appeals instituted was smaller

than in the previous year in 10 districts and larger in the same number. The largest decreases were in Tippera (951), Noakhali (606), Pabna-Bogra (266), Burdwan (163), and Hooghly (134), while the noticeable increases were in Mymensingh (286), Nadia (200), Chittagong (148), Dacca (140), the 24-Parganas (121), Khulna (103) and Birbhum (100). In the remaining districts the variations were less than 100. The fluctuations were due chiefly to the appeals preferred against the decisions of settlement officers.

Appeals decided.

168. The number of appeals decided (15,450) was 2,658 less than in 1912. In the courts of District and Additional Judges disposals decreased by 1,869, and in those of Subordinate Judges by 789. The number of appeals disposed of after contest (12,876) was 1,513 less than in 1912. Excluding Dinajpur, the decrease in disposals was spread over 12 districts and was greatest in Tippera (1,456) and Midnapore (1,164). The falling off in disposals in Tippera and Midnapore is due to the fact that a large number of analogous and settlement appeals was decided in those districts in the previous year. The noticeable increases, on the other hand, were in Noakhali (571) and the 24-Parganas (213). In Noakhali a large number of appeals was disposed of in batches, while in the 24-Parganas the larger outturn is due to the assistance of the Additional Judges.

Appeals pending.

169. There were 15,176 appeals pending at the close of the year, the number being 2,029 more than at the end of 1912. The number of appeals pending for more than one year increased from 636 to 1,401. The number was largest (366) in Hooghly, where assistance has been given to the staff.

Results of appeals.

170. The result on the decision of the lower courts of the appeals decided during the year was as follows :—In 8,863 cases, or 57·4 per cent. of the whole, the judgment of the lower courts was affirmed ; in 1,477 cases, or 9·6 per cent. it was modified ; and in 2,605, or 16·8 per cent., it was reversed. Five hundred and seventy-nine appeals, or 3·7 per cent., were remanded, and 1,926, or 12·5 per cent., were either not prosecuted or dismissed for default. The results are, on the whole, more favourable to the lower courts than those of the preceding year.

General.

171. In spite of the decline in institutions the volume of original work coming before the subordinate courts rose considerably owing to the heavy arrears outstanding from the previous year; consequently, notwithstanding the larger outturn of all grades of courts, the pending file increased. The appellate arrears also increased, both as regards the total and the number pending more than a year, owing to the diminished outturn of the lower appellate courts. There was a further rise in institutions on the Appellate Side of the High Court, accompanied by a substantial increase in disposals, with the result that the appellate arrears were reduced.

Inspection.

172. The courts of 9 Subordinate and Small Cause Court Judges and 72 Munsifs were inspected by District and Additional District Judges.

Receipts and charges of the civil courts.

173. The receipts of the civil courts amounted to Rs. 1,28,64,865, showing an increase of Rs. 1,59,954 on those of the previous year, and the charges to Rs. 59,35,406, showing an increase of Rs. 2,52,038 on those of 1912. Inclusive of the amount realized on account of duty* on probates, etc., there was a profit to the Government from civil litigation of Rs. 69,29,459, or Rs. 92,084 less than in 1912 ; and, exclusive of the item referred to, the surplus amounted to Rs. 61,49,298.

	Rs.
In the High Court ...	5,13,838(*a*)
In other courts ...	2,66,323(*a*)
	*7,80,161

(*a*) The figures are for the financial year 1913-14.

CIVIL JUSTICE IN THE SCHEDULED DISTRICT OF THE CHITTAGONG HILL TRACTS.

Chittagong Hill Tracts.

174. The total number of suits instituted during 1913 in the Civil Courts in the Scheduled District of the Chittagong Hill Tracts was 450. The suits were for money or movable property. The total number of civil suits for disposal was 669. Of these suits, 58 were contested and 209 were disposed of without trial. The number pending at the close of the year was 85. The number of miscellaneous cases was 2,194. Of these 1,910 were decreed *ex-parte*, and 267 were pending at the close of the year. The total number of appeals from decrees was 30, and the number disposed of 27. Six miscellaneous appeals were preferred; and all were disposed of. One thousand one

hundred and twenty-four applications were made for execution of decrees, of which 423 were pending at the end of the year.

Registration.

[Triennial Report on the Administration of the Registration Department for the years 1911, 1912 and 1913. Statistics of British India, Part II—Commercial. Part VI—Administrative and Judicial.]

Progress.

175. The most important event of the triennium was the reorganisation of the Department necessitated by the territorial changes of 1912. The registration work in the five Divisions which now constitute the Province of Bengal was much heavier than in the areas comprised in the new provinces of Bihar and Orissa and Assam. There were 290 registration offices in the former province of Bengal and 257 in Eastern Bengal and Assam. Of these offices no less than 381 were in the area constituting the new Province, while 129 were in Bihar and Orissa and 37 in Assam. The Registration Department in the new Province, composed as it was of portions of two pre-existing provinces, had to face the difficulty of co-ordinating the system of administration in force in its eastern and western portions. This co-ordination involved an examination not merely of the statutory rules and tables of fees prescribed under the Registration Act, but also of such questions as the recruitment, promotion and transfer of Sub-Registrars and other matters of administration, in regard to which the two former provinces had proceeded on different lines. The greater part of the work of co-ordination has now been completed. The statutory rules and table of fees have been made uniform throughout the Province. The cadre of the service has been fixed with the sanction of the Government of India, and the system of administration in the two parts of the province has been brought into line on all essential points. Among other important reforms effected, the following may be noted :—The pay of probationers has been raised from Rs. 20 to Rs. 30 and a departmental examination has been introduced to test their knowledge and acquirements before confirmation. Funds have been allotted for improving the conditions of rural offices, which have long been recognised as notoriously bad, and a regular building programme has been initiated. The leave reserve of the Department has been increased from 8 to 12 per cent. in order to obviate the necessity of appointing outsiders or ministerial officers to officiate in temporary vacancies. The important office of the Registrar of Calcutta has been reorganised and a separate whole-time officer has been appointed as Registrar of Joint Stock and Insurance Companies. Proposals which had long been pending in the old provinces for the improvement of the pay of the ministerial and menial establishments are now being matured.

Statistics.

176. The ordinary work of the Department continued to expand during the triennial period. The number of offices has increased from 376 to 392. Compulsory registrations affecting immovable property increased by 7 per cent., and optional registrations of the same kind by 15·3 per cent. The total number of registrations under all heads was 4,394,921 in the period under review, as compared with 4,117,104 in the preceding triennium. The Calcutta Improvement Act came into force in 1912, and rules were framed under section 86 of that Act regarding the levy of the additional 2 per cent. stamp duty. The registering officers in Calcutta realised a sum of Rs. 3,83,492 for the Improvement Trust on this account, while in the 24-Parganas Rs. 62,942 was realised and accounted for. The receipts of the Department during the past three years amounted to over Rs. 53 lakhs, and the expenditure to Rs. 29½ lakhs, leaving a surplus of 23½ lakhs. As compared with the previous triennium, the receipts increased by 9 per cent., the expenditure by 2·9 per cent., and the surplus by 17·7 per cent.

Brief summary of results.

177. The increase in registration transactions is shared by all the Divisions.

In Calcutta the lull in 1912 in transactions affecting land due to the removal of the Capital to Delhi and the coming into operation of the Calcutta Improvement Act was only temporary and a return to normal conditions

occurred in the last year of the triennium. The territorial changes of 1912 have not affected the demand for, and the price of land in and about Dacca.

Prosecutions.

178. Compared with the preceding triennium, prosecutions decreased from 63 to 57; it is satisfactory to note that the system of finger-prints has proved deterrent in regard to the offence of false personation.

Working of the Marriage Act III of 1872.

179. The number of marriages registered during the year 1913-14 under the Marriage Act III of 1872 was 35 against 26 in the previous year. Of these 20 were registered in Calcutta, 6 in Dacca, 4 in the 24-Parganas, 2 in Howrah and 1 each in Mymensingh, Faridpur and Chittagong. Out of 50 Marriage Registrars under the Act, only 9 Marriage Registrars and 1 *ex-officio* Marriage Registrar registered marriages during the year. The ages of the bride-grooms ranged from 20 to 48 and those of the brides from 14 to 30 years. Five widows, whose ages ranged from 20 to 30, were remarried.

Working of the Muhammadan Marriage Registration Act and the Kazi's Act.

180. As in the preceding year Bengal Act I of 1876 (an Act for the Voluntary Registration of Muhammadan Marriages and Divorces) was in force in 26 districts in this Province. There were 271 registration offices open at the end of 1913-14 against 273 in the preceding year. Seven offices were abolished during the year under report, 2 in Burdwan, 3 in Midnapore and 2 in Nadia. Five new offices were opened, one in each of the districts of Jessore, Faridpur, Rangpur, Tippera and the 24-Parganas. Registration took place in 260 offices and no work was done in the remaining 11 offices. The total number of ceremonies registered increased by less than one per cent. as compared with the preceding year, the figures being 67,795 and 67,187, respectively. This increase is chiefly shared by the Presidency and Chittagong Divisions. The total receipts of Muhammadan Marriage Registrars and Kazis, including gratuities, amounted to Rs. 1,36,581, against Rs. 1,30,712, showing an increase of 4·5 per cent. Two very important matters were considered by the Permanent Committee in the course of the year under report, viz., (*i*) the abolition of the Kazi's Act of 1880 and the assimilation of its provisions with those of Act I of 1876, and (*ii*) the readjustment of the jurisdiction of the Muhammadan Marriage Registrars of Calcutta with a view to afford each Registrar an adequate income. As regards (*i*) no definite conclusions have been arrived at by the Committee, but the Inspector-General's proposals under (*ii*) have been sanctioned since the close of the year.

Working of the Indian Companies Act, 1913 (VII of 1913).

181. The Indian Companies Act, 1913 (VII of 1913) which repealed the Indian Companies Act, 1882 (VI of 1882), came into force on the 1st April 1914, and a separate whole-time officer was appointed to perform the duties of Registrar under the new Companies Act, as well as under the Provident Insurance Societies Act, 1912, and the Indian Life Assurance Companies Act, 1912. Rules have been framed to govern the grant of certificates entitling the holders to act as auditors of companies under the new Acts. The number of companies registered during the year was 165 against 138 in the preceding year. Of these 153 were limited by shares, 2 were limited by guarantee and 10 were registered under the Societies Registration Act, 1860. None of the companies limited by guarantee ceased to work or went into liquidation or was finally dissolved during the year. One hundred and ninety-six companies increased their paid-up capital, while only two companies reduced their capital during the year. The number of companies limited by shares working at the close of the year was 973 with an aggregate paid-up capital of Rs. 28,51,34,118 and a nominal capital of Rs. 92,89,62,900 compared with 847 companies in the previous year with a paid-up capital of Rs. 27,08,01,086 and a nominal capital of Rs. 87,49,16,900. The total amount of fees realized during the year was Rs. 37,663.

Municipal Department and Local Self-Government.

MUNICIPALITIES OUTSIDE CALCUTTA.

[Reports from the Commissioners of Divisions on the working of the Municipalities in the Bengal Presidency (except Calcutta) during the year 1913-14. Statistics of British India, Part VIII—Local Funds.]

Number.

182. The number of Municipalities in the Province remained unchanged, viz., 111. The proposal to establish a Municipality at Bhola was dropped in

favour of the formation of a Union Committee. Alterations in the municipal boundaries of Rangpur and Darjeeling are under contemplation.

Powers.

183. The Bengal Municipal (Sanitary Officers) Act, 1914 (Ben. Act II of 1914), became law towards the close of the year under report and Commissioners have since been invited to submit proposals for the extension of the Act. The extension of this Act will make it compulsory for Municipalities whose income is not less than Rs. 10,000 to appoint sanitary officers. Municipal Administration was also extended by the transfer to Municipal authorities of the work of registration of vital statistics. This duty will naturally devolve on the sanitary officers when appointed.

Elections.

184. General elections were held in only nine Municipalities during the year under report. In Chandpur the seats were for the most part uncontested, but in the other eight Municipalities the elections excited considerable interest. The percentage of attendence of voters ranged from 90·9 in Ward No. IV of the Chandpur Municipality to 14·4 in Ward No. II of the Santipur Municipality. The first elections in two wards of the Baduria Municipality were declared invalid. An attempt was made to observe secrecy at a bye-election at Kotrung in the Hooghly district in view of the pressure brought to bear on electors by local zamindars. The Presidents and members of the Election Committee were chosen for their impartiality and no other person was allowed to remain in the polling booth. The experiment found favour with the voters and may be considered to have proved a success.

Attendance at meetings.

185. The total number of meetings held and the number of those that had to be adjourned for want of a quorum rose from 2,050 and 132 to 2,174 and 134, respectively. Eight Municipalities failed to hold 12 meetings.

Number of rate-payers.

186. The total number of rate-payers rose from 311,654 to 314,562 in spite of a decrease of 2,029 in the Burdwan Municipality consequent on the destruction of holdings by the floods in August and an apparent decrease of 1,331 in Nadia due to errors in previous calculations.

The percentage of rate-payers to population was 15·9. It was highest in Kalna (34·8) and lowest in Tittagarh (3·6).

Assessment and taxation.

187. The rates on holdings and persons and the lighting rate were levied as formerly. Latrine fees were levied in 93 Municipalities and a water-rate in 17. The average incidence of taxation per head of population rose from Re. 1-15-4 to Rs. 2-1-1. It varied from Re. 0-6-3 in Baduria to Rs. 8-4-0 in Darjeeling. The Presidency Division showed the lowest average (Re. 1-11-2).

Revision of Assessment.

188. A general or partial revision of assessments was made in 64 Municipalities. The resultant increase of revenue was largest in the following Municipalities :—

	Rs.
Cossipore-Chitpur	... 87,886
Howrah	... 31,512
Mymensingh	... 14,421
Baranagar	... 13,405
Midnapore	... 12,827
Serampore	... 11,812
Barisal	... 10,230

In Chittagong, Rangpur and Darjeeling the assessment of new and improved holdings yielded increased revenues of Rs. 1,640, Rs. 2,500 and Rs. 4,577, respectively.

Collections.

189. All the Divisions showed an increase of collections and the total collections rose from Rs. 38,06,365 to Rs. 39,83,558. The percentage of total collections on current demand, however, fell from 96·15 to 94·15. There was a noticeable falling-off in the percentage of collection in the Presidency Division, but this is accounted for by the non-payment of disputed taxes. The decline in the percentage of the Dacca Division is large and no satisfactory explanation for it has been given. Garulia maintained its reputation for cent. per cent. collections, while Tittagarh and Nalchiti had no outstandings at the close of the year. Fourteen Municipalities succeeded in making collections equal to or exceeding the current demand. The total remissions rose from Rs. 1,24,100 to Rs. 1,58,861 and their percentage on current demand rose

from 3·13 to 3·7. Debhatta, Taki and Dhulian remitted the high percentages of 24·3, 18·5 and 10·7. The outstanding balances rose from Rs. 2,26,519 to Rs. 3,16,741, *i.e.*, by nearly 40 per cent. This large increase was almost entirely accounted for by the Presidency Division and was due to the cause already noted. Fourteen Municipalities had outstanding balances of over Rs. 5,000.

Income and Expenditure.

190. The total receipts of the Municipalities including the opening balances fell from Rs. 93,22,039 to Rs. 88,64,602. There were decreases of Rs. 9,37,514 under the head "Extraordinary and Debt" and Rs. 12,409 under "Miscellaneous." The other heads showed an increase, the largest being Rs. 2,20,505 under the head "Municipal Rates and Taxes" followed by Rs. 2,19,043 under the head "Grants and Contributions".

The total expenditure amounted to Rs. 69,58,164 as against Rs. 74,84,083 in 1912-13, the decrease being solely under the head "Extraordinary and Debt" (Rs. 12,13,161). There was a large increase of Rs. 5,76,389 under the head "Public health and convenience" chiefly due to capital outlay on water-supply and drainage.

Closing Balance.

191. The closing balances rose from Rs. 18,37,956 to Rs. 19,06,438. The largest balances were held by Howrah (Rs. 3,65,856), Chittagong (Rs. 2,24,280), Darjeeling (Rs. 1,46,045) and Dacca (Rs. 1,23,339). These large balances are mainly due to unexpended grants and accumulated funds for water-supply and drainage schemes.

INCOME.

Total Receipts.

192. The total income of the year, excluding that under the heads "Opening Balance" and "Extraordinary and Debt," increased from Rs. 50,99,683 to Rs. 55,73,291. Details of the main items of revenue are given below.

Tax on houses and lands.

193. The increase under the head "Taxes on houses and lands" amounted to Rs. 59,607. The largest increases occurred in Howrah (Rs. 34,849) and Cossipore-Chitpur (Rs. 11,219).

Tax on Animals and vehicles.

194. There was an increase of Rs. 7,378 from taxes on animals and vehicles, the increase being again largest in the Rajshahi Division. The receipts in the Presidency Division fell by 7·3 per cent., the decrease being attributed to the extension of railways and the partial failure of the jute crop.

Tax on Profession and trades.

195. The receipts from the tax on professions and trades showed an increase of Rs. 5,206. The Presidency Division returned an increase of Rs. 1,654 against a decrease of Rs. 4,178 in the previous year.

Tolls on roads and ferries.

196. The increase of Rs. 3,779 from tolls on roads and ferries was almost entirely accounted for by a change in the method of accounting in Narayanganj, introduced under the instructions of the Examiner of Local Accounts.

Water-rate.

197. A water-rate was levied for the first time in Serampore and Chandpur. Of the total increase (Rs. 64,298) in receipts from water-rates, Howrah contributed Rs. 26,154, Darjeeling Rs. 8,473, Cossipore-Chitpur Rs. 7,632, Maniktala Rs. 7,522 and Burdwan Rs. 6,269. The Dacca, Narayanganj and Mymensingh Municipalities showed a decrease of Rs. 3,308, of which Dacca accounted for Rs. 2,224.

Lighting rate.

198. As in the previous year a lighting-rate was levied only in four Municipalities. The receipts under this head showed an increase of Rs. 19,229, to which all the Municipalities contributed. In addition a sum of Rs. 54,373 was received by the Darjeeling Municipality on account of electric light installation.

Conservancy.

199. The increase under the head "Conservancy" amounted to Rs. 39,086. The receipts from the sale of night-soil and street-sweepings rose from Rs. 2,342 to Rs. 4,298, of which Howrah contributed Rs. 2,662. Four Municipalities in the Burdwan Division leased out their trenching grounds for cultivation.

Tax on persons.

200. The increased receipts from the tax on persons amounting to Rs. 21,631 was due to revision of assessments and better collections.

Realisation under special Acts.

201. The income realised under special Acts increased by Rs. 6,003 which consisted almost entirely of increased jute warehouse fees in Howrah and Cossipore-Chitpur. Fees under the Hackney Carriage Act were levied in Azimganj and Nadia for the first time.

Revenue derived from Municipal property and powers apart from taxation.

202. The increase of Rs. 40,466 in revenue derived from municipal property and powers apart from taxation was principally accounted for by increased rent and interest receipts.

Grants from Provincial and Local Funds and contribution from Private individuals.

203. The receipts from grants and contributions increased by Rs 2,19,043. The following large grants were made by Government :—Rs. 2,00,000 to Chittagong and Rs. 50,000 to Hooghly-Chinsura for water-supply, Rs. 33,000 to Burdwan and Rs. 26,000 to Satkhira for improvement of water-supply, Rs. 17,500 to Bhadreswar and Rs. 10,000 to Bhatpara for drainage works, Rs. 20,000 to Chittagong for general improvement purposes and Rs. 18,270 to Dacca for construction of girls' Primary schools. The following instances of private liberality are noteworthy :—The Maharajadhiraj Bahadur of Burdwan contributed a further sum of Rs. 10,000 for the Burdwan drainage scheme ; Raja Rao Jogendra Narain Roy Bahadur of Lalgola gave a donation of Rs. 14,000 for the construction of an out-door dispensary and a phthisis Ward in the Berhampore Hospital ; the Raja Bahadur of Mahisadal contributed Rs. 5,000 to the Midnapore Municipality for a Town Hall ; Babu Nil Krishna Ray gave Rs. 5,000 towards the construction of a bridge over the Chaktai khal in the Chittagong Municipality ; Babu Iswar Chandra Ray made a donation of Rs. 4,000 for the excavation of a tank in Brahmanbaria ; and Babu Sachindra Nath Ray, Chairman of the Dhulian Municipality, gave a sum of Rs. 2,800 for the construction of a dispensary in that town.

EXPENDITURE.

Office and collection establishment.

204. The expenditure on office and collection establishment increased by Rs. 29,397 and the percentage on the total ordinary expenditure increased by ·4 per cent. The highest percentages were shown by Nalchiti (21·1), Khirpai (21·05) and Debhatta (20·6).

Prevention of fire.

205. The increased expenditure of Rs. 23,514 on the prevention of fire was almost entirely due to increased demands from Howrah, Cossipore-Chitpur, Maniktala and Garden Reach Municipalities to meet the cost of improvement in the Calcutta Fire-Brigade. The total amount contributed by these Municipalities was Rs. 73,836.

Lighting.

206. The expenditure on lighting increased generally, the total increase being Rs. 34,695. Four Municipalities are reported to have been unable to incur any expenditure for street lighting and the arrangements in Chittagong remained defective. A scheme is being drawn up for an electrical installation in Kurseong.

Water-supply.

207. The expenditure on water-supply increased by Rs. 2,92,575, of which Rs. 2,48,144 was on account of Capital outlay. The Serampore, Jessore and Khulna water-supply schemes were completed during the year and that of Hooghly-Chinsura has since been completed. The South Suburban Municipality spent Rs. 11,418 in extending its water-supply and Berhampore, Rs. 3,392 in repairing its water-works. The water-supply plant of the Victoria Jute Mills Coy., Telinipara, was improved and the area of supply extended to the great benefit of the public. Many wells and tanks were provided in the smaller Municipalities. The combined drainage and water-supply project in Bankura was commenced and is now in progress. Administrative approval was accorded to schemes submitted by the Commissioners of the Satkhira, Narayanganj and Chittagong Municipalities, the last being finally sanctioned before the close of the year. The provision of water-supply works in Asansol, Madaripur, Rampur-Boalia, Comilla, Chandpur (northern section), English Bazaar, Krishnagar, Nator and Bogra and the extension or repair of existing works in Berhampore, Serampore, Mymensingh and Barisal were under consideration. The Garden Reach Municipality appealed to the Local Government against the demand of the Calcutta Corporation for payment at penal rates for the supply of water in excess of the stipulated amount of 50,000 gallons a day. The result of this appeal was the fixing of an all-round rate of six annas per 1,000 gallons supplied up to a maximum of 200,000 gallons per day. The Kurseong filter was examined and overhauled by the Jewell Filter Coy., and is now giving excellent results. A set

of rules for the management and control of the catchment area was framed by the Municipal Commissioners and is under consideration. The catchment fencing has been readjusted in some places and it has been proposed that the Forest Department should stop forest work in this area and allow the Municipality to protect it. It is hoped by this means to prevent pollution of the water.

Drainage.

208. The increase of Rs. 89,387 in the expenditure on drainage was chiefly on account of capital outlay, the expenditure on which rose by Rs. 85,879. Howrah (Rs. 59,622) and Burdwan (Rs. 52,928) incurred the largest capital expenditure. The Garulia Municipality completed the second portion, and Budge-Budge the northern portion of their respective schemes; Block No. 3 of the Serampore scheme was taken up and finished, and the Ranaghat and Kushtia schemes were nearly completed. A number of *pucca* drains were constructed in English Bazar and a scheme of partial drainage at Berhampore was carried out, but it does not appear to have been working satisfactorily. The Suri drains are being repaired and encroachments removed. The preliminary arrangements in connection with the Katwa drainage scheme were completed and drainage schemes for Bhadreswar, Kurseong and Tangail received Government sanction. Baruipur applied to Government for a grant of Rs. 5,000 to remedy the defects found in its scheme. Cossipore-Chitpur and Garden Reach submitted schemes to Government for approval. The Asansol drainage scheme could not be taken up for lack of funds and may have to be revised. Work on the Baranagar outfall channel was also held up. Drainage schemes were under consideration at Basirhat, Kamarhati, Nator, English Bazar, Dinajpur, Rangpur, Mymensingh, Faridpur and Jamalpur. The preliminary survey for a drainage scheme at Comilla was completed; this scheme is expected to take some time to mature.

Conservancy.

209. The expenditure on "Conservancy" showed an increase of Rs. 89,456, principally on account of capital outlay.

Hospitals and Dispensaries and Plague charges.

210. There was an increase of Rs. 57,763 in the expenditure on hospitals and dispensaries and on account of plague charges The Presidency Division contributed the major portion of this increase including Rs. 19,000 given by Raja Rao Jogendra Narayan Ray of Lalgola and the Berhampore District Board for the Berhampore Hospital. At Bankura a new operation room was constructed and the out-door accommodation was extended. At Raniganj quarters were constructed for a midwife. At Ghatal a bungalow was acquired for new hospital buildings. Maniktala established a branch dispensary at Ultadingi. Dhulian spent Rs. 4,038 on a new dispensary. The Pabna Municipality was again unable to contribute its share to the Sadar dispensary, and the contributions of the Bogra and Sherpur Municipalities were inadequate. The expenditure on plague was almost entirely on preventive measures. A threatened outbreak of plague in epidemic form at Baranagar was successfully checked.

Public Works.

211. There was an increased expenditure of Rs. 45,315 on roads, but the expenditure under the sub-head "Buildings" decreased by Rs. 25,886; the total increase of expenditure was only Rs. 30,671. The decrease in expenditure on roads by the Municipalities in the Presidency and Dacca Divisions was unsatisfactory and, but for a large increase of Rs. 47,321 in the figures for Howrah. the decrease noticed under this head last year would have continued. The percentage of outlay on Public Works in Kurseong was only 1·5, but this is explained by the fact that all roads with the exception of three small ones, are maintained by the Public Works Department. Hooghly-Chinsura incurred only 3·1 per cent. of its total expenditure on public works.

Public Instruction.

212. The increase of Rs. 17,966 in the expenditure on Public Instruction was shared in by all the Divisions. Cox's Bazar spent the largest proportion of its ordinary income on Primary education, *viz.*, 11·2 per cent. Forty-one Municipalities spent less than 3·2 per cent.

Loans.

213. Forty-one Municipalities were in debt at the close of the year and their total amount of indebtedness after deducting Rs. 7,487, the amount of the Sinking Fund investments of the Burdwan Municipality, was Rs. 22,28,989. The largest outstanding liabilities were those of Howrah (Rs. 21,31,043), Darjeeling (Rs. 8,46,919), Dacca (Rs. 3,05,794), Narayanganj (Rs. 1,39,987) and Hooghly-Chinsura (Rs. 1,34,124). Five Municipalities

took loans during the year, viz., Howrah (Rs. 2,00,000 for drainage), Darjeeling (Rs. 47,740, made up of Rs. 14,000 for improvement of water-supply and Rs. 33,740, the last instalment of the building loan of Rs. 1,63,740), Katwa (Rs. 15,000 for carrying out the drainage scheme), Kushtia (Rs. 6,000, the second instalment of the loan of Rs. 10,000 for drainage) and Jalpaiguri (Rs. 6,000 for the construction of an office building). Vishnupur, Rajpur and Krishnagar paid-off their liabilities.

Liabilities.

214. On the 31st March 1914, 83 Municipalities had outstanding liabilities amounting to Rs. 2,88, 40 or 8·1 per cent. of their current demand. In eight Municipalities the outstanding liabilities exceeded the closing balance. The financial position of Hooghly-Chinsura with a closing balance of Rs. 3,212 and outstanding liabilities of Rs. 73,435 was critical. A special audit of the accounts of the Municipality has been ordered by Government since the close of the year.

Audit of accounts and embezzlement.

215. There were two cases of embezzlement by tax-collectors in Chandrakona and Maheshpur and one by a Bench clerk in Bhadreswar. A sum of Rs. 558-12-9 was stolen by an office peon from the iron-safe of the Naihati Tax-daroga. The peon was arrested and has been sentenced to five years' rigorous imprisonment. No embezzlements were detected in the Dacca, Chittagong and Rajshahi Divisions.

Howrah.

216. The current demand on account of taxes rose from Rs. 9,21,011 to Rs. 9,53,203. The total demand amounted to Rs. 10,11,841, of which Rs. 9,13,566 or 90·2 per cent. was collected. The total ordinary income, including grants and contributions, was Rs. 11,49,445 and the ordinary expenditure Rs. 15,74,216. The large increase in expenditure was due to the expenditure of Rs. 6,92,040 under "Water-supply, capital outlay." The outstanding debt was Rs. 21,31,043. Satisfactory progress was made with the laying of the new 24" water main, and the water-works at Serampore were maintained in good order. The erection of new over-head reservoirs has been postponed until the necessity for them has been established. Land acquisition proceedings were in progress in connection with the construction of the central drainage canal and it is expected that the excavation work will shortly be commenced. The preparation of schemes for *pucca* drains which will discharge into this canal is approaching completion. The lighting of the town was greatly improved by the introduction of electric light. Survey operations were commenced under the supervision of the Director-General of Surveys. The clearance of *bustees* has been engaging the attention of the Commissioners, the provisions of the Bengal Municipal Act have been found unsatisfactory in the case of Howrah and the Commissioners are considering the advisability of extending to Howrah the sections of the Calcutta Municipal Act dealing with *bustees*.

Administration.

217. In the Burdwan Division the Asansol, Raniganj, Tamluk, Sonamukhi and Arambagh Municipalities were efficient and well managed. On the other hand the management of the Burdwan, Hooghly-Chinsura, Uttarpara, Baidyabati and Bansberia Municipalities was unfavourably reported on by the local officers. Burdwan passed through a period of exceptional strain at the time of the Damodar flood, which may have accounted for many of its short comings. With the Municipalities in the Burdwan district, the year was one of preparation rather than performance, for while few important improvements were completed, many were carried through the preliminary stages. The Municipalities in Hooghly showed a lack of system and business-like methods, irregularity in collections, and general insufficiency of funds; substantial progress was made in water-supply and drainage schemes, but there is a fear that the incomes of Municipalities will not expand sufficiently to keep pace with the growing demands unless the maximum limit of taxation is raised. The Lilua Ward Committee did good work in the town of Bally. Unfortunately the present relations of the Ward Committee with the Municipal Commissioners are not altogether satisfactory and the administration of the remainder of the Municipality is not conspicuously efficient, the financial position being particularly unsound.

The character of municipal administration in the Presidency Division varies widely according to the different circumstances of the Municipalities. In the large and wealthy suburban Municipalities, with a comparatively

high and rising valuation, a fairly high standard has been attained, and there is steady progress. The mill Municipalities, which administer small and compact areas, with a sufficient income for their requirements, are efficient bodies. Other Municipalities include extensive areas of a rural character, where no large income can be raised by taxation and no very high standard of municipal administration is attainable. Others again administer small and unprogessive towns with little trade or industry, or towns which, owing to economic changes, have declined in importance and are still decaying. In such places no large increase of taxation is possible, and for any important improvements the Municipalities depend on subventions from provincial or district funds or private liberality. Many defects may be found in the work of the municipal committees, the most serious, perhaps, being due to the prevalence of party spirit, but, when all the difficulties are taken into account, the record of the Municipalities, as a whole, is not a bad one.

The Municipalities in the Dacca Division are fairly progressive, but evince little desire to pay for improvements by increased taxation. The financial position of the Barisal Municipality was greatly improved; its conservancy arrangements, however, were bad. In the Chittagong Division the Comilla Municipality showed a marked improvement in the collection of arrears of rates and in the attendance of Commissioners at meetings. Chittagong Municipality has made considerable progress. The Darjeeling and Kurseong Municipalities have the best record of the Municipalities in the Rajshahi Division. The affairs of Pabna Municipality have been so unsatisfactory that they have been brought under the investigation of a small committee. Substantial progress has been made by other Municipalities and a number of sanitary schemes have been drawn up.

Four Municipalities are allowed a free hand in the preparation of their budgets. Of these, Burdwan and Cossipore-Chitpur did not make a good use of their privileges. There have been serious irregularities in the finances of the former Municipality while in the latter there has been an alarming increase in the cost of establishment. No irregularities were found in the case of the other two Municipalities—Howrah and Maniktala.

Calcutta Municipality.

[Report on the Calcutta Municipality for the year 1913-14. Statistics of British India, Part VIII—Local Funds.]

Introductory.

218. The year under report was a prosperous one and was marked by activity in the matter of improvements. Considerable attention was paid to the maintenance of roads and a number of experiments are being carried out in this connection. The impending amendment of the Calcutta Municipal Act came under discussion and the proposed changes in the constitution were generally approved. The amendment of Chapter X of the Act relating to loans and sinking fund was passed into law; it abolishes the 1 per cent. sinking fund and provides a more elastic system for the flotation of loans with corresponding sinking funds.

By-laws.

219. The by-laws relating to the sale of food were amended and it was made obligatory for shopkeepers to keep articles intended for human consumption in proper receptacles. These by-laws were also extended to places in which drugs are kept or sold. Special attention was paid to the enforcement of the Theatre by-laws in the matter of precautions against fire. For this purpose the services of the Chief Officer of the Fire Brigade were utilised.

Revenue Funds.

220. The opening balance on the 1st April 1913 was Rs. 27,42,610. Receipts during the year amounted to Rs. 1,04,49,275 and payments to Rs. 1,03,31,298, leaving a closing balance of Rs. 28,60,587. On the basis of assets and liabilities, the closing balance was Rs. 20,28,742, which is nearly three times the amount of the closing balance of 1909-10. Establishment charges were slightly higher than in the previous year, but the percentage of these charges on the income of the year decreased from 23·4 to 22·1—the lowest proportion for several years.

Loans.

221. Sanction was accorded to the raising of a loan of Rs. 20 lakhs, but it was not found desirable to raise this loan, as the money market was unfavourable at the time when sanction was received. The opening balance of the loan funds was Rs. 27,57,141. Miscellaneous receipts amounted to Rs. 2,69,245 and payments to Rs. 14,58,501, leaving a balance of Rs. 15,67,884.

Loan liability and borrowing powers and Sinking Fund.

222. The total loan liability remained stationary at Rs. 4,92,29,500. The annual interest charges on outstanding loans amounted to Rs. 26,00,394 and the total accumulation in the Sinking Fund at the close of the year was Rs. 31,13,532. On the assumption that the rate of interest would be 4 per cent. and the rate of contribution to the Sinking Fund 1 per cent., the available margin up to which fresh borrowing is permissible is Rs. 2,86,88,340.

Assessment.

223. The annual valuation was increased by 22 lakhs, of which 14½ lakhs was contributed by revaluation. The total annual valuation of thecity on the 31st March 1914 was Rs. 4,14,65,000. There was a distinct improvement in the work of the Vacancy Remission Section and the percentage of remissions for vacancies was only 2·72, as against 3·09 and 3·13 in the two preceding years.

Collections.

224. The total demand amounted to Rs. 83,31,000, *i.e.*, Rs. 76,98,000 for rates and Rs. 6,33,000 on account of miscellaneous bills. The total net demand on account of the consolidated rate after deduction of vacancy remissions was Rs. 74,40,000, of which Rs. 73,05,000 was realised. A sum of Rs. 5,99,000 was realised on account of miscellaneous bills. The percentage of collection, calculated on the gross current demand less amount withdrawn and pending with the Assessor, rose from 96·61 to 96·87, but the net percentage of collections excluding vacancy remissions fell from 99·73 to 99·61. This fall is due partly to the fact that the increase in the consolidated rate was the highest during the last five years and partly to more stringent scrutiny of vacancy remission claims. The total license realisations rose from Rs. 11,02,800 to Rs. 11,48,800.

Surveyor and Bustee Departments.

225. The number of projects for which plans and estimates were prepared by the Surveyor's department increased from 212 to 253 and the aggregate amount of the estimates prepared, by nearly a crore. Land acquisition proceedings were instituted in 60 cases covering an area of 24½ *bighas* and nearly 30½ *bighas* were actually acquired.

The question of cancellation of street alignments prescribed in previous years is under consideration. At present alignments are being revised in consultation with the Chairman of the Improvement Trust in order to fit in with the alignments prescribed by the Trust.

A great many new *bustees* were taken up for improvement during the year. Progress in carrying out *bustee* improvements was good in spite of the usual opposition on the part of owners. Huts were entirely removed from 31 *bighas* of insanitary *bustees* and a little less than a mile of road was opened out. Attention was paid to the question of suitable privy arrangements in *bustees* and it was decided by the Bustee Sub-Committee that a contribution should be made by the Corporation equal to the capitalised value of the savings of *mether's* wages on the conversion of service-privies into connected ones.

Store Department.

226. The store department has been in existence for nearly eighteen months and is already doing useful work by the provision of an adequate stock of the materials required by the various departments. It is hoped that the construction of central and district depôts for stores will soon be commenced.

Water-supply.

227. The quantity of water supplied averaged 58½ (35¾ filtered and 22¾ unfiltered) million gallons a day. The average daily consumption per head was 32·8 gallons of filtered and 25·4 gallons of unfiltered water. Discussions on the subject of waste-prevention were continued, but no satisfactory solution of the difficulty has yet been found.

Drainage.

228. Little progress was made with the surface drainage scheme for Wards 19 to 22, but the construction of the sewers in connection with the Fringe Area scheme was practically completed. A committee was appointed by Government to consider the question of diverting the sewage and storm water to some other outfall in consequence of the rapid silting-up of the

Bidyadhari. Observations taken during the year would seem to show, however, that the silting-up process is not as rapid as was at first thought.

Lighting.

229. The new gas contract continued to be economical and resulted in a saving of over a lakh of rupees. There was a net increase of 637 gas-lamps, and 1,000 new pattern copper lanterns were installed. Three hundred and thirty seven oil-lights were replaced by gas-lamps and 136 new ones were erected in places where it was not possible to instal gas-lamps. Experiments were made in connection with electric lighting, and installations have been made in a few streets.

Roads and Squares.

230. There was a large increase of Rs. 2,33,000 in the expenditure on road repairs. Special attention is being paid to the improvement of road surfaces, and experiments were carried out to determine a suitable form of pavement for heavy traffic. Forty-two thousand square yards of new tar-macadam road were laid. Complaints as to the slipperiness of this pavement were thoroughly investigated and it was found that a sprinkling of fine stone chips greatly reduced the danger. Considerable improvements were effected in the rounding-off of corners and the paving of footpaths, Rs. 21,374 were spent on the up-keep and improvement of squares. The Improvement Trust has proposed to make a lump sum allotment of Rs. 10 lakhs for the provision of squares not included in other improvement schemes. Mr. Lane of the Royal Botanic Gardens made a survey of roadside trees and submitted a report towards the close of the year. A staff of four overseers with an establishment of *mális* is being appointed for the planting and maintenance of trees; it is hoped that a systematic system of tree-planting will lead to a great improvement in the appearance of the streets, and add substantially to the comfort of pedestrians.

Conservancy.

231. The expenditure under the head of street-cleaning was just under Rs. 9 lakhs. The Corporation decided to introduce motor-traction for the disposal of refuse, and an experiment will be made with three motor-lorries in Ward No. 13 during the current year. If this experiment is successful, it is hoped that the removal of the conservancy railway from Circular Road may be found possible.

Health Department.

232. The number of births registered during the year was 18,386 or 20·5 per mille as against 21·6 per mille in 1912. The decrease appears to be due to defective registration. The number of reported deaths was 26,188 or 29·2 per mille, an increase of 1·1 per mille over the rate for 1912. There was a considerable increase in the number of deaths from dysentery and diarrhœa (2,636) and also from phthisis (2,196). The plague mortality notably decreased from 1,938 to 852. There were 5,054 deaths among infants under one year of age, an increase of 10 only on the figures for the preceding year, but the rate rose from 259 to 274 per thousand births. Social conditions make it extremely difficult to effect any improvement. The Health Officer has been distributing among *dhais* boxes containing surgical scissors and dressings with printed instructions for use in confinement cases. Deaths from cholera showed a decided falling-off from 2,244 to 1,764. There were 120 deaths from small-pox. Steps were taken to induce the people to avail themselves of the protection afforded by vaccination as it was thought that 1913 was a pre-epidemic year. These measures seem to have been successful. The number of deaths from malaria increased from 1,218 to 1,420.

The question of milk-supply is still under consideration. The levy of a prohibitive fee of Rs. 10 for the slaughter of prime cows was strongly resented and had to be suspended. A beginning was made in removing offensive trades and stables from residential quarters. The Indian Paper Mills' Association consented to co-operate with the Corporation in its endeavour to abate the danger arising from the objectionable practice of rag-picking by agreeing to purchase no rags which had not been previously disinfected.

Markets.

233. The receipts from the Sir Stuart Hogg Market (Rs. 3,94,781), the Lansdowne Market (Rs. 3,901), and the Sir Charles Allen Market (Rs. 5,514) all showed an increase. A committee investigated the questions of *benami* letting and monopoly and it was decided that those actually in possession of stalls should be registered as the tenants of the Corporation but that no transfer of tenancy should be recognised in future except by permission, and

that all partnerships or changes of ownership must be registered. Sanction was accorded by Government to the establishment of a municipal market in the north of Calcutta.

Municipal Magistrate's Court.

234. The number of cases instituted during the year was 22,053 and the total number for disposal including pending cases was 23,381, an increase of 2,951. Convictions were obtained in 18,763 cases and the total amount of fines imposed was Rs. 1,01,169; 1.429 cases were pending at the close of the year.

Hackney Carriage Department.

235. There was a decrease of 10 in the number of hackney carriages actually plying for hire. This is due to the increase in the number of motor taxi-cabs as these do not come within the scope of the Hackney Carriage Act. The total number of registrations was 3,620. Special efforts were made to prevent the use of lame and unfit horses with the result that the number of prosecutions rose from 1,892 to 3,564.

District Boards.

[Reports from the Commissioners of Divisions on the working of District Boards in Bengal during the year 1913-14. Statistics of British India, Part VIII—Local Funds.]

Meetings of District and Local Boards.

236. The number of meetings held during the year by the 25 District Boards in the Province was 378 as compared with 387 in the previous year. Only 6 of these proved abortive for want of a quorum, and all District Boards met at least once a month. The number of members remained unchanged, but the number of elected members increased by 2, the number of nominated members being correspondingly diminished.

There was no change in the number of Local Boards. The total number of meetings held was 956, of which 58 failed for want of a quorum. Only 16 Local Boards failed to meet once a month as against 28 in 1912-13.

Elections.

237. General elections were held in Midnapore, Hooghly, Howrah and Dacca and bye-elections in the 24-Parganas, Dacca, Mymensingh, Bakarganj and Rajshahi. The elections failed in 16 *thanas* owing to an insufficient attendance of voters; these vacancies were filled up by nomination.

Powers of District and Local Boards.

238. The Bengal Laws Act, I of 1914, came into force with effect from the 14th January 1914. This Act extended the provisions of the Bengal Local Self-Government (Amendment) Act, V of 1908, to the Rajshahi, Dacca and Chittagong Divisions, formerly in Eastern Bengal and Assam. It also empowered all District Boards throughout the Province to establish scholarships for the furtherance of technical or any other special form of education in institutions within the district and, with the sanction of Government, in institutions outside the district. As a result of an application made by the Howrah District Board for permission to contribute towards the relief of sufferers on account of the floods at Burdwan, the provisions of section 99 of Act III of 1885, as amended by Act V of 1908, were extended first to the District Boards in the Burdwan and Presidency Divisions and, after the passing of the Bengal Laws Act, to the District Boards in the Rajshahi, Dacca and Chittagong Divisions. All District Boards in the province, therefore, are now authorised to incur expenditure for the relief of suffering in times of famine and serious distress. Some Local Boards in the Presidency and Dacca Divisions received increased administrative powers in the management of pounds and ferries, the control of primary education, the maintenance of roads and the improvement of village sanitation.

Union Committees.

239. The number of Union Committees increased by 5 owing to the establishment of 2 new committees at Rajbari and Pangsa in Faridpur, and to the subdivision of 3 committees in Burdwan, the 24-Parganas and Jessore into 2 each. The average area has now fallen to 9½ square miles and the average population to less than 9,500. The number of members averaged approximately 8 and the number of meetings held during the year, 7. No Union Committees have yet been established in the Rajshahi Division, but informal committees under the supervision of the Local Boards were experimentally formed in Rangpur. This experiment proved most

successful and proposals have now been submitted for the formation of Union Committees in Rangpur and Bogra.

The total income of the Union Committees, exclusive of the opening balances, showed an increase of Rs. 27,453 and the expenditure rose by Rs. 26,686. The total closing balance was Rs. 20,354. District Boards, as usual, contributed the major portion of the receipts, but there was a large increase of Rs. 10,921 in the income from local taxation. The Contai Union Committee incurred an expenditure of Rs. 6,538 and five others spent more than Rs. 2,000. As in the previous year, three committees incurred no expenditure. Of the Union Committees in the Burdwan Division, those in Birbhum were all well managed; others were not so efficient, but most of them were reported to take an interest in matters of sanitation, water-supply and conservancy. The working of the Union Committees in the Presidency Division showed some improvement. The Madrail-Narayanpur Union in the 24-Parganas was reported to have done useful work during a cholera epidemic, and the Aurangabad and Patkabari Unions in Murshidabad carried out some minor drainage works. The eleven Union Committees in the Dacca and Chittagong Divisions spent the sums at their disposal usefully. Two Unions, Akhaura and Feni in the Chittagong Division, provide conservancy arrangements.

Financial results.

240. The year opened with a credit balance of Rs. 29,71,360 and the total receipts of the District Boards from all sources amounted to Rs. 1,07,30,777. The total expenditure during the yeor was Rs. 85,82,326. The closing balance reached the large figure of Rs. 51,19,811. The income and expenditure for the last two years under the main heads are shown below :—

INCOME.					EXPENDITURE.				
	1912-13.		1913-14.			1912-13.		1913-14.	
		Percentage of total income.		Percentage of total income.			Percentage of total expenditure.		Percentage of total expenditure.
	Rs.		Rs.			Rs.		Rs.	
Land Revenue ...	236	·003	558	·005	Administration ...	2,17,548	3·3	2,31,458	2·7
Provincial rates ...	29,20,509	40·7	58,44,685	54·5	Local rates	154	·002	254	·003
Interest	16,798	·2	18 708	·18	Law and Justice ...	1,494	·02	2,803	·03
Law and Justice ...	4.909	·07	5,687	·05	Police	22,898	·3	21,435	·25
Police	3,68,007	5·1	3,77,772	3·5	Ports and Pilotage ...	7,954	·1	6,933	·08
Education	11,73,710	16·3	15,82,401	14·8	Education	16,57,920	25·3	21,58,574	25·15
Medical	70,615	·9	79,212	·74	Medical	3,87,083	5·9	5,31,985	6·2
Minor Departments ...	11,685	·15	8,407	·08	Minor Departments...	65,238	·9	69,701	·8
Stationery	1,579	·02	2,034	·02	Superannuation ...	49,675	·7	53,966	·6
Miscellaneous	3,60,042	5·2	1 82,823	1·7	Stationery	22.868	·3	25,451	·3
Railways	90,847	1·2	1,03,669	·93	Miscellaneous ...	20,170	·3	20,439	·2
Irrigation	24,983	·3	20,691	·2	Famine relief ...	70	·001	3.155	·04
Civil Works	12,83,465	17·8	12,23,969	11·4	Minor works	47,461	·7	55,359	·6
Loans	80,000	1·1	1,02,241	·95	Civil works	35,20,385	53·7	46,65,641	54·4
Deposits, etc. ...	7,63,376	10·6	11,75,920	10·9	Interest, etc.	6,732	·13	12.062	·1
					Repayment of loans	15.866	·2	14,744	·2
					Deposits	5,02,520	7·6	7,08,366	8·2
Total ...	71,70,761	...	1,07,30.777	...	Total ...	65,46,038	...	85,82,326	...

Details of receipts and expenditure under the more important heads are given in the following paragraphs.—

INCOME.

Provincial rates.

241. The large increase of Rs. 29,24,176 in the income from provincial rates was due to the surrender of the Public Works Cess to District Boards. There was an increase of Road Cess in Faridpur and Bogra due to revaluation, and the increase in Mymensingh is partly attributed to improved collection of cesses.

Police (pounds).

242. The receipts from pounds showed an increase of Rs. 9,765. The number of pounds increased from 4,009 to 4,065, in spite of the fact that in Jessore 15 pounds were abolished for want of bidders. There was an increase in the receipts of the Boards in the Dacca, Chittagong and Rajshahi Divisions,

but there was a decrease in both the Burdwan and Presidency Divisions. The decrease in the former division was small, but that in the latter amounted to nearly Rs. 5,000 and was shared by all the districts.

Education. 243. The increase of Rs. 4,08,691 in the income under "Education" was entirely due to increased Government grants for the improvement of Primary education.

Medical. 244. The receipts from private contributions for medical purposes rose from Rs. 14,835 in 1912-13 to Rs. 41,538 in the year under review. The increase was most marked in the Dacca Division where the contributions amounted to Rs. 13,485 as against Rs. 700 in the previous year. In the Burdwan and Presidency Divisions receipts from private sources amounted to Rs. 13,231 and Rs. 11,576, respectively.

Ferries. 245. The income under the head "Ferries" increased by Rs. 19,790, towards which the districts of Mymensingh and Rangpur each contributed about Rs. 4,000. A decrease was recorded in only 8 districts. The increase was due to keener competition amongst the bidders for leases, greater care in conducting settlements, and better collections. The decrease was the result of the extension of railways and the replacement of some ferries by bridges.

Loans. 246. Two loans of Rs. 62,241 and Rs. 40,000 were received from Government by the District Boards of the 24-Parganas and Jessore, respectively. The former was taken for the completion of the Magrahat Drainage project and the latter for the construction of office buildings.

EXPENDITURE.

Administration. 247. All the Divisions showed increased expenditure on account of administration, the total increase being Rs. 13,910. The cost of office establishment rose from Rs. 1,41,471 to Rs. 1,50,910 and contingencies from Rs. 75,388 to Rs. 80,548. The Asansol Local Board establishment was increased as a result of the transfer of District Board roads in the Asansol sub-division to the charge of the Local Board. The percentage of expenditure for administration charges on the total ordinary income ranged from 1·6 in Chittagong to 3·6 in Faridpur.

Education. 248. The charges on account of education amounted on the average to over 27 per cent. of the District Board expenditure. The increase of Rs. 5,00,654 under this head was almost entirely due to increased expenditure under the sub-heads "Maintenance and management of Primary schools" and "grants-in-aid" and was met by allotments from the Imperial grants for the improvement of Primary education. Those allotments were spent mainly on the construction and equipment of Primary schools and in giving enhanced stipends to the *gurus* of these schools. The number of village Lower Primary schools was 25,179 and the expenditure incurred on them formed more than 60 per cent. of the total amount spent on education The maintenance and management of Middle schools cost Rs. 78,425 as against Rs. 68,872 in 1912-13.

Special Schools. 249. There was no increase in the number of Technical schools maintained by District Boards. The cost of the Midnapore Technical School has not been proportionate to its utility, and the Chairman of the Board has expressed doubts as to the advisability of maintaining it. The Bankura District Board constructed a suitable building for the branch weaving school in that district at a cost of Rs. 3,000, and the Rangpur District Board paid Rs. 4,000 towards the cost of maintenance of the Bayley-Gobindalal Technical School at Rangpur. Technical and special scholarships were awarded by several District Boards to students of the Civil Engineering College, Sibpur, the Weaving School at Serampore, the Veterinary College at Belgachia, the School of Art, Calcutta, the Deaf and Dumb Institution at Calcutta, the Campbell Medical School, and other institutions. The District Boards of Jessore and Malda each gave a scholarship to female medical students.

Medical. 250. The total increase under "Medical" amounted to Rs. 1,44,902, of which Rs. 59,139 was on account of sanitation and Rs. 85,763 for medical charges. All the divisions incurred increased expenditure under both heads. The largest increase on medical expenditure proper was Rs. 50,800 in the

Dacca Division where a contribution of Rs. 25,000 was made by the Mymensingh District Board towards the construction of the proposed new hospital at Mymensingh and payments were made by the Bakarganj District Board for the improvement of the Pirojpur dispensary and for the settlement of outstanding claims in respect of the new Barisal hospital buildings. In the Presidency and Rajshahi Divisions also there was a noticeable increase of expenditure as the result of liberal grants to dispensaries for furniture and appliances, the establishment of three new dispensaries, and the taking over of the management of two aided dispensaries.

The total number of dispensaries maintained by District Boards increased from 144 to 165, while the number in receipt of aid decreased from 217 to 205. These figures include 7 temporary dispensaries maintained during the fever season in Burdwan, but do not include 10 temporary dispensaries opened by the Birbhum District Board for the treatment of cholera and fever. In some districts supernumerary doctors were appointed to deal with outbreaks of cholera and other epidemics. The experiment carried out in Mymensingh of subsidising a private practitioner to provide medical attendance to poor patients free and to others at a small charge according to an approved scale did not prove successful. Difficulties were found in discriminating between the two classes, and the doctor subsidised was unwilling to continue the arrangement on the terms offered by the Board.

The value of quinine sold through vendors decreased from Rs. 14,540 to Rs. 12,658 in the Burdwan Division and increased from Rs. 18,173 to Rs. 19,153 in the Presidency Division. In the Presidency Division the sales in the district of Khulna alone showed a decrease. No figures have been given for the other Divisions as a whole. Mymensingh spent Rs. 818 on the free distribution of quinine in the Tangail sub-division and other malarious parts of the district, and Faridpur Rs. 1,000 in connection with a malaria epidemic. The District Board of Dacca distributed quinine for sale to collecting *panchayats* in malarious areas and spent Rs. 427 in order to give the first instalment free, arrangements being made for the recoupment of the stock from sale-proceeds. The Tippera District Board spent a larger amount than in the previous year on the distribution of quinine, and Pabna distributed quinine during a malaria epidemic.

The District Boards of Mymensingh, Bakargarj and Rangpur made contributions to the Pasteur Institute at Kasauli.

The Dacca District Board has decided to utilise its increased funds from the Public Works Cess in establishing and maintaining 10 new dispensaries in localities where medical aid is not easily procurable.

Sanitation.

251. The expenditure on sanitation showed a marked increase of nearly 200 per cent., viz., from Rs. 30,244 to Rs. 89,383. An amount of Rs. 47,757 was spent in the Burdwan Division alone, and of this the Midnapore District Board was responsible for Rs. 28,681. Ten Boards spent over Rs. 3,000 each and no Board failed to incur any expenditure, though in some cases more might have been done. The usual sanitary arrangements were carried out at important fairs and *melas*, and a considerable amount of jungle-clearing, tank-excavation and clearance and drainage work was accomplished. Silted up *khals* were cleared out and insanitary ditches filled in. The bulk of this work of village sanitation was performed by Local Boards and Union Committees.

Veterinary charges.

252. The total expenditure on account of veterinary charges increased by Rs. 1,417. The largest expenditure (Rs. 3,860) was again incurred in Mymensingh. An additional veterinary assistant was appointed in Mymensingh to relieve the assistant in charge of the veterinary hospital at headquarters of his touring duties, and two assistants were appointed in Chittagong and Tippera for the sub-divisions of Cox's Bazar and Brahmanbaria. The employment of two more assistants in Bakarganj has been sanctioned by the District Board. In the district of Rajshahi excellent work was done by the itinerant Veterinary Inspectors. In Khulna and the 24-Parganas also the veterinary assistants rendered useful service on the outbreak of rinderpest and other diseases among cattle.

Civil works.

253. There was a general increase in the expenditure on Civil Works, the total increase for the Province being Rs. 11,45,256. The explanation for

the increase is the transfer of the Public Works Cess to District Boards. The expenditure on "Communications—Original Works" rose from Rs. 8,25,838 to Rs. 14,65,895 and on "Communications—Repairs" from Rs. 17,86,043 to Rs. 19,97,571. The mileage of metalled, unmetalled and village roads at the close of the year was 1,845, 13,123 and 14,611, respectively.

The Dacca District Board made a beginning in the demarcation of old village tracks which are in danger of being entirely obliterated by encroachments. A sum of Rs. 3,625 was spent on this purpose.

Water-supply.

254. The expenditure on water-supply increased by Rs. 1,76,345, the increase being made up of Rs. 1,28,310 on account of original works and Rs. 48,035 on account of repairs. The entire amount was spent on the excavation, re-excavation and clearance of tanks and the sinking of wells. Only three District Boards, Howrah, Noakhali and Pabna, failed to spend the standard minimum of Rs. 5,000. Fair progress has been made in the preparation of water-supply registers and maps, and it is anticipated that this work will be practically completed within the current year. The registers prepared for Dacca were found to be very useful in the selection of villages where tanks and wells were required.

Drainage.

255. The total expenditure on drainage decreased by Rs. 1,121. As in the preceding year, the Tippera District Board was the only one that spent any considerable amount on drainage. Nothing was spent in the Burdwan Division.

Arboriculture.

256. The expenditure on arboriculture rose from Rs. 24,282 to Rs. 33,003. All the District Boards incurred some expenditure under this head. The largest amounts were incurred in Midnapore (Rs. 6,560) and Mymensingh (Rs. 4,508). In the former district a new nursery was established and trees were planted to fill up gaps on 65 miles of road, while in the latter 674 trees were planted on the Mymensingh-Netrokona road and the existing trees were maintained.

Railways.

257. The construction of the Ahmedpur-Katwa Railway has been undertaken by Messrs. McLeod and Company without a guarantee from the District Boards of Burdwan and Birbhum. The detailed survey of the Belda-Contai Railway in Midnapore was completed. The Baraset-Basirhat Railway continued to be a source of profit to the District Board of the 24-Parganas, its share in the proceeds amounting to Rs. 27,932. The extension of this line up to the Belgachia Tram terminus has been sanctioned. The construction of a light railway from Kalighat to Fatehpur is under the consideration of Government. The Jessore-Jhenida Light Railway in Jessore was opened during the year. The construction of the Khulna-Bagerhat Railway will shortly be taken up. The Faridpur District Board had under consideration the construction of a railway from Pangsa to Madhukali and Bhusna. Steps were taken by the Bakarganj District Board to investigate the financial aspects of a light railway in the Bhola sub-division. The proposal of the Pabna District Board for a railway from Sadhuganj to Isardi was postponed, as the Sara-Serajganj Railway Company propose to extend the Sara-Serajganj Railway from Isardi to some place on the Jumna.

Closing balances.

258. The total closing balance of District Boards (excluding deposits) increased from Rs. 21,08,889 to Rs. 38,33,177, or by over 80 per cent. In only two District Boards (Bankura and Bakarganj) was there a decrease; in these districts the balance in deposit was comparatively small, and the decrease in the closing balance was not due to any large increase in the number of uncashed cheques. The largest closing balance was again that of the District Board of the 24-Parganas, but, if allowance be made for the unexpended Government grant of two lakhs of rupees for the improvement of the Nawi and Sunthi rivers, the largest balance was held by Midnapore. The value of cheques remaining uncashed on the 31st March 1914 in Midnapore amounted to no less than Rs. 1,70,299. Conditions were to some extent abnormal owing to the transfer late in the year of the Public Works Cess, and on this account District Boards found themselves unable to work up to their full incomes. The Bakarganj District Board, however, which disbursed the second largest amount (Rs. 7,13,238), had the smallest proportion of closing balance to total expenditure.

Volunteers.

259. The total number of Volunteers and Reservists during the year 1913-14 was 7,530, of whom 7,477 qualified as efficients. **Total strength.**

Marine.

[(1) Annual Report of the Port Officer, Calcutta, 1913-14.
(2) Annual Report of the Port Officer, Chittagong, 1913-14.
(3) Annual Report on Shipping Offices, 1913-14.
(4) Annual Report of the Health Officer of the Port of Calcutta, 1913.
(5) Administration Report of the Agent for Government Consignments, 1913-14.
(6) Annual Report of the Bengal Smoke Nuisances Commission, 1913-14.
(7) Administration Report of the Port Commissioners, Calcutta, 1913-14.
(8) Administration Report of the Howrah Bridge, 1913-14.
(9) Annual Report of the Bengal Steam-boiler Commission, 1913-14.
(10) Administration Report of the Port Commissioners, Chittagong, 1913-14.]

PORT OF CALCUTTA.

260. The strength of the service during the year was 56 pilots and 14 leadsmen apprentices. Four branch pilots retired, including one licensed branch pilot. One leadsman apprentice was removed from the service, because he was not able to pass the prescribed examination in navigation. Four leadsmen apprentices were recruited from England. **Pilot service.**

261. The receipts from pilotage were Rs. 14,63,822 against Rs. 15,33,673 and Rs. 14,76,000 during the years 1912-13 and 1911-12, respectively. **Receipts from pilotage.**

262. One thousand six hundred and forty-nine vessels with a gross tonnage of 6,926,817 arrived and 1,659 vessels with a gross tonnage of 6,961,807 left the Port, against 1,730 and 1,718 vessels representing gross tonnage of 7,074,530 and 7,019,679, respectively, in the previous year. **Arrival and departure of vessels.**

263. There were 20 groundings against 21, and 2 collisions against 2 in 1912-13. Six groundings were of a slight nature, 1 was accidental, and 5 were due to alteration in the channel of the river. In 7 cases the pilots concerned were held to be free from blame and in 1 case the grounding was due to carelessness on the part of the pilot, who was suitably dealt with. In both the cases of collisions the pilots were held to be free from blame. **Casualties to vessels.**

A departmental Court of Enquiry was held to investigate a charge of breach of departmental rules against a pilot. He was found guilty and was suitably dealt with. There was no Court under Act XII of 1859 (the Calcutta Pilots Act, 1859) during the year.

264. One hundred and twenty-two candidates appeared at the examinations for the grant of Colonial and Home-trade certificates of competency, of whom 61 passed. Of 608 candidates for the examinations for the grant of certificates of competency as Master, *Serang*, Engineer and Engine-driver under the Inland Steam-vessels Act, 1884, 204 passed. **Examinations.**

PORT OF CHITTAGONG.

265. Seven hundred and fifty-three vessels with a gross tonnage of 797,332, including 378 inland steamers, entered and 742 vessels with a gross tonnage of 792,489, including 378 inland steamers, left the port, against 780 vessels with a gross tonnage of 675,630, and 791 vessels with a gross tonnage of 689,056, respectively, in the preceding year. The latter figures include inland steamers. **Arrival and departure of vessels.**

266. There were six groundings and one vessel was totally lost. **Casualties to vessels.**

267. Out of 137 candidates who appeared for the examinations for the grant of certificates of competency as Master, *Serang* and Engine-driver under the Inland Steam-vessels Act, 1884, 66 passed. **Examinations.**

SHIPPING OFFICES AT CALCUTTA AND KIDDERPORE.

268. The receipts of the shipping offices amounted to Rs. 1,23,047 and the expenditure to Rs. 69,875, against Rs. 1,18,739 and Rs. 65,009, respectively, in the preceding year. **Finance.**

Seamen shipped and discharged.

269. The number of seamen shipped and discharged was :—

	1912-13.	1913-14	Increase.	Decrease.
Shipped—				
Under European Articles of Agreement	851	832	...	19
Under Indian ditto ...	45,127	47,315	2,188	...
Discharged—				
Under European Articles of Agreement	1,229	1,018	...	211
Under Indian ditto ...	41,406	43,536	2,130	...

The number of Eurasian seamen shipped under European and Indian Articles was 76 and 484, against 96 and 371, respectively, in 1912-13.

Repatriation of Seamen.

270. Ninety-eight seamen were repatriated during the year under the Distressed Seamen Regulations, against 119 in the previous year.

CHITTAGONG SHIPPING OFFICE.

Finance.

271. The receipts of the Chittagong Shipping Office amounted to Rs. 905 and the expenditure to Rs. 756, against Rs. 1,092 and 767, respectively, in 1912-13.

Seamen shipped and discharged.

272. The number of seamen shipped and discharged was 197 and 644 against 145 and 988, respectively, in the previous year.

HEALTH OF THE PORT OF CALCUTTA.

Inspection of vessels.

273. The number of inward and outward bound vessels inspected by the Health Officer during the year 1913 was 697 and 748, against 722 and 837, respectively, in 1912.

The numbers of crews and passengers passed and rejected were :—

		Passed.	Rejected.
Outward bound vessels ...	Crew ...	59,002	60
	Passengers ...	21,299	33
Inward bound vessels ...	Crew ...	25,320	...
	Passengers ...	4,607	...

Health of Seamen.

274. The number of European seamen admitted into hospitals was 647, of whom 6 died, against 677 admissions and 14 deaths in 1912. There were 106 cases of venereal diseases amongst European seamen against 65 in the previous year. The number of deaths at sea was 8 against 10 in 1912.

The number of deaths among Asiatic seamen was 172 or 6·65 against 95 or 3·67 per mille in 1912. In 70 cases the deaths were from cholera and 35 deaths were due to accidents.

Disinfection of vessels.

275. Three cases of small-pox and 5 cases of chicken-pox were reported to have occurred on seagoing vessels. Three cases of cholera were removed from seagoing vessels. The vessels affected were disinfected. A case of sickness removed from the S.S. *Inverness* turned out to be one of measles. The ship left port before any action could be taken. There was no case of breach of plague regulations.

AGENCY FOR GOVERNMENT CONSIGNMENTS.

Finance.

276. The total receipts of the agency for Government consignments amounted to Rs. 4,31,711 and the expenditure to Rs. 3,96,605.

Tonnage handled.

277. The tonnage dealt with was—

Packages	... ...	505,576 (including 164,282 fire-bricks).
Tons	... ...	30,623

The value of freight bills passed was Rs. 3,62,486.

278. The adoption of revised rates to be charged by the Agent for the landing, delivery and shipment of stores for Government departments and *quasi*-Government bodies was sanctioned by the Government of India. **Revised rates.**

BENGAL SMOKE-NUISANCES COMMISSION.

279. The Inspectors of the Department made 6,119 observations of smoke emission during the year under report against 4,683 in the previous year. They also visited 4,269 factories against 246 in 1912-13 for the purposes of inspection, imparting instruction to the employees and testing fuel and appliances. **Inspections and Observations.**

As the result of the adoption of the revised scale of time-limits for the emission of dense smoke, there was steady improvement in curtailing the emission of smoke of the greatest density known as " Scale No. 6."

There were 43 prosecutions against 26 in the preceding year. All the cases ended in conviction.

An important step during the year under review in the direction of abating smoke emission was the inauguration by the Commission of a scheme of examination for the grant of certificates of competency as stoker, which will enable employers to obtain the services of certificated stokers, and will also conduce to the efficient working of the Commission.

CALCUTTA PORT TRUST.

280. The income of the Calcutta Port Trust was Rs. 1,51,28,435 and the expenditure Rs. 1,56,61,451, resulting in a deficit of Rs. 5,33,016. **Income and expenditure.**

281. The Commissioners were authorised to raise a debenture loan of Rs. 70 lakhs bearing interest at a rate not exceeding 4 per cent. per annum and repayable in 30 years for expenditure on capital works estimated to cost Rs. 69,92,604. **Capital expenditure.**

282. The following were the more important works in progress or completed during the year :— **Important works.**

Construction of No. 9 Jetty and Transit shed.
New double-storeyed warehouse for inland vessels traffic.
Provision of a new suction dredger, one double-ladder dredger and two Hopper Barges.
Purchase of gas buoys and boat buoys for the lighting of the river between Mud Point and Saugor.
Provision of 300 18-ton covered wagons.
Construction of an additional berth with a two-storeyed transit shed in Dock No. 2.
Construction of a belt conveyor coal-loading plant at No. 19 berth.
Earthwork for New Dock Junction Yard.
Purchase of 7 locomotives and 350 trucks for reclamation work.

283. The capital debt on the 31st March 1914 was Rs. 10,64,71,166 against which the Commissioners hold properties valued at Rs. 12,07,34,832. The amount of Sinking Fund stood at Rs. 1,45,83,116. **Capital debt.**

A special committee was convened by the Commissioners to consider the question of lighting the River Hooghly with a view to its navigation at night. The Committee, with whom the Commissioners agreed, recommended in the first instance the lighting of the channels between Mud Point and Saugor. The scheme was sanctioned by Government on condition that the actual arrangements for lighting were fully tested and found to be satisfactory before night navigation is permitted. A Committee was appointed by Government to investigate the question of the general policy to be adopted for the development of the Port of Calcutta and all facilities connected therewith. The Committee's report is under consideration.

Financial result.

284. The following table shows in detail the income and expenditure of the Trust during the year under review with those of the previous year :—

	1913-14.				1912-13.				Difference between 1913-14 and 1912-13.	
	Income.	Expenditure.	Net revenue.	Net deficit.	Income.	Expenditure.	Net revenue.	Net deficit.	Increase.	Decrease.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
I.—Control	20,157	10,36,292	...	10,08,135	11,660	10,01,673	...	9,90,013	...	18,122
II.—Jetties	24,51,126	12,42,595	12,08,531	...	18,86,697	10,23,673	8,63,024	...	3,45,507	...
III.—Tea Warehouse ...	2,25,986	1,27,709	98,277	...	2,27,332	1,21,539	1,05,793	...	...	7,518
IV.—Petroleum Wharf ...	4,37,546	47,076	3,90,470	...	4,02,737	47,002	3,55,735	...	34,735	...
V.—Inland Vessels Wharves	5,22,444	2,12,670	3,09,774	...	5,23,432	1,83,787	3,39,645	...	...	29,871
VI.—Rentable Lands and Buildings.	6,71,211	2,25,642	4,45,569	...	6,33,096	2,00,158	4,32,938	...	12,631	...
VII.—Port	5,88,688	6,22,298	...	33,610	5,89,035	5,45,949	43,086	...	...	76,696
VIII.—Port Approaches ...	8,07,033	7,60,260	46,773	...	7,98,682	6,12,905	1,85,777	...	...	1,39,004
IX.—Railway	15,42,971	14,03,803	1,39,168	...	15,71,721	11,83,460	3,88,261	...	...	2,49,093
X.—Wet Docks	45,24,501	33,99,723	11,24,778	...	42,87,651	32,76,006	10,11,645	...	1,13,133	...
XI.—Dry do.	2,31,529	77,162	1,54,367	...	2,32,523	70,057	1,62,456	...	...	8,089
XII.—Ferry Service	3,78,774	3,60,477	18,297	...	3,39,321	2,99,267	40,054	...	...	21,757
XIII.—River Dues	24,65,092	...	24,65,092	...	25,01,943	...	25,01,943	...	...	36,851
Sale of unserviceable materials	49,838	...	49,838	...	47,629	...	47,629	...	2,209	...
Contribution from Howrah Bridge.	25,585	...	25,585	...	25,175	...	25,175	...	410	...
Interest on Revenue Reserve ...	1,28,066	...	1,28,066	...	1,11,108	...	1,11,108	...	16,958	...
Amount payable by capital to revenue account of haulage and maintenance of rolling stock, including establishment employed on reclamation works chargeable to capital.	57,888	...	57,888	...	56,575	...	56,575	...	1,313	...
Interest on Bank Balances ...	...	47,357	...	47,357	...	30,841	...	30,841	...	16,516
Interest and Sinking Fund charges.	...	60,05,762	...	60,05,762	...	58,49,940	...	58,49,940	...	1,55,822
Contribution to Depreciation and Fire Insurance Funds.	...	1,00,000	...	1,00,000	...	1,00,000	...	1,00,000	...	...
Reconstruction of Jetty at 60 feet River Entrance.	...	625	...	625	...	18,375	...	18,375	17,750	...
Expenditure booked during 1912-13, but properly chargeable to the previous year.	...	...	...	...	...	1,35,674	...	1,35,674	1,35,674	...
Total	1,51,28,435	1,56,61,451	...	...	1,42,46,317	1,47,00,316	...	...	...	...

HOWRAH BRIDGE.

Receipts and Charges.

285. The income of the Howrah bridge amounted to Rs. 1,98,748 and the expenditure to Rs. 2,21,850, against Rs. 2,71,724 and Rs. 2,23,890, respectively, in the preceding year, resulting in a deficit of Rs. 23,102. The receipts from railway traffic were Rs. 1,72,886 against Rs. 2,50,022 in 1912-13.

The bridge was opened on 286 occasions, 56 by day and 230 at night. The number of vessels which passed through the bridge was 3,607 against 3,837 in the preceding year.

CHITTAGONG PORT TRUST.

Finance.

286. The ordinary income of the Port Fund during the year (exclusive of the Government grant of Rs. 1,50,000 for the improvement of the Port) amounted to Rs. 2,35,758 against Rs. 2,30,235 of the preceding year. The increase was shared by the heads "Rentable Lands and Buildings," "Port," "Port Approaches" and "River Dues" and was due to increased rent realized and to greater activity in traffic and shipping; there was, however, a fall in the export of jute.

The capital value of the Port Commissioners' properties including light-houses, lands, works finished and in progress, stock materials, vessels, cash and securities, etc., was estimated on the 31st March 1914 to be Rs. 35,17,825 as against Rs. 35,36,306 at the close of the preceding year. The liabilities of the Port and Pilotage Funds (excluding the loans from Government for revetment work) amounted to Rs. 1,06,302.

The expenditure of the Port Fund, including that on revetment and dredger, was Rs. 2,89,587 as against Rs. 3,46,522 in the previous year. The decrease was due to restricted expenditure and savings in establishment charges and in revetment work including closing of the bye-channel.

No loan was taken by the Commissioners during the year. The outstanding balance of loans for revetment work was Rs. 5,69,462. The capital expenditure incurred from the Port Fund was Rs. 7,993.

287. The total value of trade passing through the Port amounted to Rs. 1,026·50 lakhs against Rs. 879·84 lakhs in the preceding year. These figures cover both exports and imports and comprise coasting as well as foreign trade. **Value of trade.**

Dredging operations in the port were attended with satisfactory results.

288. The general sanitation of the port was satisfactory. **Health of the Port.**

BENGAL STEAM-BOILER COMMISSION.

289. The total number of boilers on the registers for Calcutta and other places within the jurisdiction of the Commission was 5,351 against 5,181 in the previous year. The number of boilers inspected and certified was 4,279 (including 86 boilers twice presented for examination) against 4,317 in 1912-13. One hundred and forty-six boilers were struck off the registers as not having been presented for inspection for 5 years or as having been removed out of jurisdiction or condemned. The remaining 1,012 boilers were not presented for examination being temporarily out of use or under repairs. **Inspections.**

LIBRARY OF THE BOMBAY BRANCH OF THE ROYAL ASIATIC SOCIETY

CHAPTER IV—PRODUCTION AND DISTRIBUTION.

Agriculture.

[Report of the Department of Agriculture, Bengal, for the year ending the 30th June 1914.]

Administration.

290. The appointment of a Second Deputy Director of Agriculture for Bengal was sanctioned during the year, and the officer selected for the post is now undergoing a preliminary course of training at the Imperial Research Institute at Pusa. Since the close of the year the formation of a regular cadre for the Provincial and Subordinate Agricultural Services has been sanctioned. The Provincial Service consists of six posts of Agricultural Superintendents on Rs. 200—10—400. A Superintendent will be posted to each of the five Divisions, while the services of the sixth officer will be available for special enquiries. The Subordinate Service has been divided into two classes, namely, Class I on Rs. 100—5—200 and Class II on Rs. 50—2½—100. Class I includes the Farm Superintendents and Travelling Inspectors of the Department and Class II the District Agricultural Officers and the Mycological and Entomological Collectors.

Agricultural Education.

291. Eighteen students from Bengal attended the Agricultural College at Sabour in Bihar and Orissa. Eleven obtained the College diploma on completing the course. A scheme has been drawn up for giving a short course of practical training in scientific agriculture at the Dacca Farm, the most important agricultural station in the Province and the head-quarters of the Agricultural Chemists, the Economic Botanist and the Fibre Experts. The scheme is intended not to qualify students for Government employment, but simply to provide the sons of land-holders and other gentlemen with a knowledge of the elements of agricultural science and of improved methods of cultivation which can be put to practical use in the management of estates. The opinion of the leading Land-holders' Associations has been invited on the general suitability of the scheme and on certain details connected with it. The system of training apprentices on farms is being extended and it has been decided that appointments of fieldmen demonstrators will in future be given only to persons who have undergone a systematic course of training.

Research and Experiments.

292. After studying in detail for three seasons the characters of over 200 types of transplanted *aman* paddy, Mr. Hector, the Economic Botanist, has isolated the best types for a practical test in the field. He has also made some interesting experiments of the methods followed in Japan for separating light from heavy seed by immersion in a solution of common salt in which the light seed floats on the surface, while the heavy seed sinks to the bottom. This simple system, it is hoped, will prove useful to the Bengal *raiyat*. As there was no outbreak of the *ufra* disease of paddy in 1913, no conclusive results could be obtained from the experimental work undertaken in Dacca and Noakhali in 1912-13 in connection with the eradication of that disease. The operations are, however, being continued in consultation with Dr. Butler of Pusa. Mr. Finlow's work on fibres was to a great extent interrupted owing to his absence on leave, but a considerable quantity of superior seed, selected on the pure line-culture system, is now available, and arrangements have been made to give it an extensive trial on a practical scale during the coming season. The manurial experiments which were begun in 1911 in connection with the effects of lime and phosphate on red soil, were continued on the Dacca Farm and it appears to have been definitely established that the

application of these manures effects an immediate improvement. Mr. Annett, the recently appointed Agricultural Chemist, has drawn up a full and interesting programme of work, embracing an important analysis of the juices of several varieties of sugarcane grown on the Dacca Farm and a study of the methods employed for the extraction and manufacture of sugar from the date-palm; the latter, it is hoped, will lead to the discovery of improvements and assist the re-establishment of the industry. Mr. Annett has also taken up the important question of a soil survey of the Province as well as investigations of the contents of manures, foodstuffs and root nodules of liguminous plants. Demonstrations in the use of bonemeal have been continued in various districts of Eastern Bengal and have achieved a considerable measure of success, for, in the majority of cases, an increase of outturn, yielding substantial net profits, has been obtained. When the scheme was first started it was found necessary to invoke the assistance of the *zamindars* to purchase bonemeal for their *raiyats*, but it is now reported that the intervention of the *zamindars* is no longer required as the *raiyats* are sufficiently convinced of the advantages of bonemeal to purchase it for themselves.

Sericulture.

293. M. Lafont, the French Sericultural Expert, was compelled to leave India on account of illness in the year previous to that under report; since his return to France he has submitted a report on his work in India. The attempt to convert univoltine races of silkworms into polyvoltine by acclimatisation appears to be a failure in Bengal, although it has met with success in Madagascar. Cross-breeding experiments have shown that, although cross-bred worms are in the first generation superior to the indigenous varieties, they rapidly deteriorate afterwards as they cannot stand the climate of Bengal, especially during the period from July to October. To get over this difficulty M. Grangeon has proposed to keep the seed cocoons in the hills during that period, and a small nursery has been established experimentally at Kurseong. Further progress was made with the scheme for the establishment of central nurseries from which pure seed cocoons, free from disease, will be supplied under Government supervision. The opening of nurseries in Malda and Bogra during the year has rendered possible an important advance, as the nurseries now obtain their seed-cocoons by exchange with one another instead of as formerly by purchase from village rearers.

Fisheries.

294. The main problem before the fisheries department is to increase the fish supply of the Province either by tapping new sources of supply or by improving existing sources, and this object is being kept steadily in view in the scientific investigations which form a necessary preliminary to economic work. The statistical enquiry regarding the fish trade of the Province has been completed, and Mr. Southwell has worked out and published an important scheme for the introduction of trawling on commercial lines in the Bay of Bengal. A similar scheme for developing the fisheries in the Sundarbans is being prepared. The investigation of the breeding conditions of *hilsa* has been continued, but it is hampered by the want of a launch, the building of which has been delayed owing to various difficulties. Some important experimental work has been carried out in connection with the destruction of carp in tanks by predaceous fish and a large quantity of fry has been supplied under special arrangements with the Railway Companies. A fisherman's Co-operative Society has been started in Bakarganj with the object of assisting fishermen to purchase cheaply the nets, boats and other implements required for their calling and to enable them to dispose of their catches to advantage. The dissemination of knowledge in such matters as the stocking of tanks, the curing and transport of fish and the care of fry has everywhere been very successful.

Agricultural Associations.

295. The Provincial Agricultural Association held two meetings in the course of the year. The Burdwan and Presidency Divisional Associations each received a grant of Rs. 1,000, which they distributed among the different Associations under them. During the year 18 agricultural shows were held in different parts of the Province, as compared with 22 in the previous year. All were organized by local effort and many were industrial as well as agricultural. The grants-in-aid made to these shows amounted to Rs. 3,300.

Miscellaneous.

296. Possession of all the land acquired for the Rangpur Dairy Farm was not obtained until November 1913, and it is not therefore as yet

possible to come to any conclusion as to the measure of success likely to be attained by the farm in fulfilling its main function of solving the difficult problems connected with the breeding and maintenance of cattle in a highly cultivated tract. Great difficulty has been experienced in securing suitable cows and the number of cattle so far obtained is little more than half of that which the farm could maintain. A beginning has been made in utilising Co-operative Societies for the purpose of financing agriculturists to enable them to purchase such seeds, manures and implements as they require. Two societies have been formed with this object in Dacca, and the Co-operative Societies in Mymensingh and Faridpur are financing their members for the purchase of seed and manures.

Jute forecast.

297. The method of preparing the jute forecasts was further considered in consultation with the Jute Forecast Committee of the Bengal Chamber of Commerce. A somewhat elaborate scheme for ascertaining and recording annually the exact area under jute was drawn up at the request of the jute trade and published for criticism, but it was eventually abandoned with the concurrence of the various sections of the trade, both on account of the heavy expenditure involved and also because of the worry and trouble which it was likely to cause to cultivators. The London Jute Association expressed the view that the recent jute forecasts have been as accurate as it is reasonable to expect, and the general opinion appeared to be that the present system of basing the forecasts on a detailed census made by the *panchayats* in each union should be continued. It has therefore been decided to adopt this course for the present, though no effort will be spared to improve the system so far as funds and staff permit.

Weather and Crops.

[Season and Crop Report of Bengal for the year 1913-14 ; Crop forecasts of Bengal for the year 1913-14. Agricultural Statistics of India, Volume I.]

Character of the Season.

298. In March the rainfall, though in some cases below normal, was fairly evenly distributed and facilitated *bhadoi* sowings. Some damage was, however, done to mango blossoms in Malda and Hooghly. Slight damage to the *rabi* crops was also reported from Nadia and Burdwan. In April the rainfall was on the whole below normal, but the defect was not sufficient to interfere with the *bhadoi* sowings. Conditions in May were generally very favourable. The rainfall was above normal, but it was well distributed and facilitated the growth of the crops. In June the rainfall was very much in excess and caused much water-logging in the low lands. The jute crop suffered very greatly, especially in the districts where sowings were late, *i.e.*, in Western Bengal. The work of weeding was also interfered with. The rice crop, however, did not suffer much. In July the rainfall in several districts was above the average and in consequence water-logging in low lands continued ; but the transplantation of winter rice was carried on under favourable conditions. In August the rainfall on the whole was average, but in the Presidency and Burdwan Divisions, especially in the Burdwan and Midnapore districts, heavy floods completely devastated large cultivated areas. In September the rainfall was below normal. Conditions were favourable to the washing and steeping of jute, as there was an abundance of stagnant water and a considerable amount of clear weather. In October the fall was above the average and therefore favourable to the sowing of *rabi* crops. These conditions continued during November and December. January was rainless. In the latter part of February good showers improved the crops. On the whole the season must be regarded as unfavourable. The favourable conditions in certain months of the year were not sufficient to compensate for the excessive rainfall in June and the floods of August and September.

The following table furnishes the estimated area and outturn in 1913-14 of *bhadoi*, *aghani* and *rabi* crops as compared with the corresponding estimate of the previous year :—

Name of harvest.	Normal area in acres.	Area cultivated during 1912-13 in acres.	Area cultivated during 1913-14 in acres.	Taking 100 to represent the normal outturn, how much represented the outturn for the year.	
				1912-13.	1913-14.
Bhadoi	9,638,100	9,063,688	8,990,400	91	77
Aghani Winter rice.	16,075,300	15,313,900	14,511,200	98	92
Aghani Sugarcane	250,300	221,800	216,500	91	86
Aghani Other sugar crops.	132,700	49,300	60,100	...	...
Rabi	6,089,100	4,938,150	4,921,100	85	89
Total ...	32,185,500	29,586,838	28,699,300		

Bhadoi or Autumn crops.

299. As already indicated, the season was on the whole unfavourable for *bhadoi* crops, though not equally so throughout the Province. The jute crop was the greatest sufferer specially in the Presidency and Burdwan Divisions. It is a characteristic of the *olitorious* variety of jute that it has little resisting power to water-logging, more especially when it is attacked early in its growth. In Western Bengal sowings usually begin in April and continue till the middle of June. When therefore the young crop was attacked by the excessive rain of June, it had not advanced far and great damage was done in consequence. The damage was very much increased by the subsequent floods. In Eastern and Northern Bengal the crop was further advanced when attacked by the heavy rain, and the prevailing variety is *capsularis*, which has a far greater power of resistance to water-logging; hence the amount of damage done was not very great. The failure of the crop in the *deshi* area reduced the provincial outturn to 84 per cent. of the normal as compared with 97 per cent. last year. The outturn of the other *Bhadoi* crops was estimated to be 74 per cent. of the normal as against 87 per cent. of last year.

Winter rice.

300. The excessive rain in June delayed to some extent the transplantation of winter rice, but the conditions in July and August were on the whole favourable. This crop suffered along with others in districts which were flooded, although in most places where the crop was submerged, it was replanted during October. The fact that the rainfall was above normal during this month facilitated these operations. The provincial outturn of this crop was estimated to be 92 per cent. of the normal as against 98 per cent. of last year.

Sugarcane.

301. For the growth of sugarcane weather conditions were fair in the eastern and northern parts of the Province, but were less favourable in the western part. The total outturn was estimated at 86 per cent. of the normal as against 91 per cent. of last year.

Rabi or Spring crops.

302. Weather conditions were very favourable for the *rabi* crops till January, but somewhat unfavourable thereafter; in the latter part of February, however, there was an improvement which continued till harvest time. The outturn was estimated at 89 per cent. of the normal as compared with 85 per cent. of last year.

Cotton.

303. Cotton is grown in Bengal only in the districts of Bankura and Midnapore and in the Chittagong Hill Tracts The acreage has been below the normal in each case. Weather conditions were unfavourable to the growth of the early variety of the crop. The outturn has in consequence fallen from last year's figure of 13,781 bales to 7,037 bales. It is reported, however, that the outturn of the late variety was about equal to that of last year.

Area under cultivation.

304. The total area under different crops showed some decrease in cultivation. The cropped area was reported to be 28,699,300 acres against 29,586,838 acres returned for the previous year. Figures for the principal crops are given in the following table :—

Names of crops.	Normal in acres.	Area cultivated during 1912-13 in acres.	Area cultivated during 1913-14 in acres.
Rice	21,523,000	20,636,600	19,735,200
Other food-grains, including pulses ...	1,786,300	1,361,600	1,302,400
Jute	2,643,800	2,536,888	2,716,000
Oilseeds	2,218,000	1,822,200	1,804,900
Tobacco	405,800	313,700	319,400
Sugarcane	250,300	221,800	216,500

Prices.

305. The most important staples of this Province are rice and jute. The prices of both these articles ruled higher than in the previous year. The price of winter rice varied from Rs. 4 per maund at Burdwan and Rajshahi to Rs. 6-4 per maund at Rangpur, and that of autumn rice from Rs. 3 per maund at Rajshahi to Rs. 5-11 per maund at Bakarganj. The highest price obtained for jute was Rs. 14 per maund, the lowest Rs. 6. Food-stocks were reported to be sufficient.

Cattle.

306. According to the recent cattle census the numbers in the Province were as follows :—

Bulls and bullocks	8,909,057
Cows	7,110,634
Male buffaloes	669,574
Female „	275,059
Young stocks	8,391,514
Total ...	25,355,838

Co-operative Societies.

[Report on the working of Co-operative Societies in Bengal for the year 1913-14. Statistics of British India, Part II.—Commercial.]

Development.

307. The following statement summarises the progress of the movement during the year :—

	Societies.		Membership.		Working capital.	
	1912-13.	1913-14.	1912-13.	1913-14.	1912-13.	1913-14.
					Rs.	Rs.
Central Banks	17	33	2,529	4,601	13,74,303	32,49,243
Agricultural Societies ...	1,039	1,543	42,553	71,282	22,76,673	44,11,493
Non-agricultural Societies ...	67	80	11,807	14,352	9,56,325	12,76,760
Supervisional Unions ...	...	7	...	128	...	3,307
Total ...	1,123	1,663	56,889	90,363	46,07,301	89,40,803

The expansion of the movement has been accompanied by intensive development, and there has been a marked improvement in the adequate financing of societies and in their management and supervision. This indicates that the policy of consolidation and cautious advance, far from retarding the movement, has given it an impetus.

Central Societies.

308. The most noteworthy feature of the year has been the extension of the Central Bank system. The number of Central Banks has increased from 17 to 33, and the working capital from 13 lakhs to 32 lakhs. Hitherto

Central Banks have as a rule been started only in areas in which a number of efficient rural societies are already at work, but the Registrar has this year in some cases adopted the policy of starting Central Banks for the promotion and financing of Co-operative Societies in areas which have been previously untapped, but in which the conditions are favourable for the establishment of societies on a large scale. The work of financing rural societies appears to be carefully done, and the proportion of overdue loans to the total amount of loans outstanding is insignificant. There has been a decided improvement in the manner in which the Central Banks have supervised the rural societies. The tendency to rely too much on paid officers or to leave everything in the hands of one or two prominent members has not disappeared, but it is becoming less noticeable, and in several Central Banks the Directors have begun to make regular inspections of village societies in order to see things for themselves.

Provincial Co-operative Bank.

309. The scheme for the establishment of a Provincial Bank was considered by a Sub-Committee of the last Provincial Conference, which included several influential members of the mercantile and business community in Calcutta. The Sub-Committee unanimously decided that the co-operative movement in Bengal has now reached a stage at which a Provincial Co-operative Bank should be launched; and a scheme approved by the Sub-Committee has been worked out in detail under competent legal advice and is ready for issue. Owing to the dislocation of business caused by the outbreak of the war, it has been decided to hold the scheme in abeyance for the present.

Agricultural Societies.

310. The development of Agricultural Societies has been even more remarkable than in previous years. The number of societies has increased from 1,039 to 1,543, the membership from 42,000 to 71,000, and the working capital from 22¾ lakhs to 44 lakhs. A sum of 30 lakhs was issued in loans to the members as against 14 lakhs last year, and of the loans taken more than 28 lakhs were devoted to the payment of debts and other economic or productive purposes. The policy of localising supervision and finance through the agency of Central Banks is said to have effected a marked improvement in the working of agricultural societies, but there are indications that the village societies may become unduly dependent on the Central Banks for their finance. Of their total working capital of 44 lakhs, the agricultural societies have obtained 30½ lakhs, or more than two-thirds, by means of loans from Central Banks. Although the punctuality shown by the societies in repaying their loans to the Central Banks leaves little to be desired, there is still room for improvement in regard to the realisation of loans granted to members. The important question of extending the use and knowledge of agricultural improvements through the medium of Co-operative Societies is receiving attention, and some progress has been made, particularly in Mymensingh and Rangpur.

Non-agricultural Societies.

311. The number of non-agricultural credit societies increased from 60 to 71, the membership from 11,164 to 13,653, and the working capital from 9 lakhs to 12 lakhs. The substantial increase in members' deposits indicates a satisfactory growth of thrift. The non-credit societies are few in number and have so far not proved very successful.

Horticulture.

[Annual Report of the Royal Botanic Garden and other gardens in Calcutta and of the Lloyd Botanic Garden in Darjeeling during the year 1913-14.]

Royal Botanic Garden, Sibpur. General.

312. With the exception of a cyclonic storm, the year under review was favourable from a climatic point of view. The rainfall registered in the district was quite sufficient for plant growth and was favourably distributed throughout the year. The work of revetting the river bank against the effects of high tides and storms continued, and a contract has been made for the supply of 20 lakhs of bricks to form a *bund* along the foreshore and round the brickfield. It is expected that on the completion of this *bund*

the river will have a chance of silting up an area in which a herbary may subsequently be made.

Plant and seed exchange.

313. During the year, 5,102 plants were received and 55,777 distributed. Of the latter 2,930 were sent to Delhi for the new capital, 4,400 to Bankipore for a similar purpose, while the remainder were distributed to various Governments, and to Local Boards, the Public Works Department and Charitable Institutions. This is the largest distribution for many years.

Herbarium and Library.

314. Nine thousand six hundred and sixty-five specimens of Indian plants were added to the Herbarium as compared with 7,157 during the previous year; and over 1,600 extra-Indian plants were received. Nearly 10,600 sheets were laid in and 5,700 sent out during the year.

Publications.

315. The library work was carried on as usual, the number of accessions by purchase or exchange being 50. An index of all species of Indian plants not included in "Hooper's Flora" is being compiled. An appendix to Volume XI of the "Annals of the Royal Botanic Garden," Calcutta, by Dr. Odorado Beccari, was published and a revised index for the whole volume by Major A. T. Gage, I.M.S., was issued along with it. An alphabetical list of non-herbaceous phanerogams also by Major Gage, I.M.S., was published. The following records of the Botanical Survey of India were issued during the year, viz., a general index to Volume IV by Messrs. M. S. Ramaswami and S. C. Banerji; Volume VI, No. 2, by Messrs. W. W. Smith, G. H. Cave and M. S. Ramaswami; Volume VI, No. 3, by Mr. H. N. Dixon; Volume VI, No. 4, by Messrs. W. W. Smith and G. H. Cave; and Volume VII, No. 1, by Father Blatter.

Lloyd Botanic Garden.

316. The Lloyd Botanic Garden in Darjeeling distributed some 13,551 plants, 7,544 dozen of seedlings, 3,734 bulbs and 4,499 packets of seeds in addition to specimens and seeds sent down to Calcutta. Some success has attended the experimental introduction of new plants. In spite of labour difficulties the garden showed a saving on its allotment and appears to be growing in popularity.

Calcutta Gardens.

317. Nothing on a large scale was undertaken in the Calcutta gardens during the year under review, but attention was given to the usual horticultural operations and the gardens were kept in good condition. The year was favourable to cold season annuals and the Canna gardens represented a fine appearance.

Cinchona Plantations and Factory.

[Report of the Government Cinchona Plantations and Factory for the year 1913-14.]

General.

318. Throughout the year climatic conditions on both the Mungpoo and Munsong Plantations were favourable, the rainfall being 105·50 inches on Mungpoo and 92·62 inches on Munsong against 128·04 inches and 106·80 inches, respectively, in the previous year.

Plantation.

319. The total area under Cinchona on the two plantations increased from 1,779½ to 2,246 acres. No less than 1,367½ acres was under comparatively young plants; this portion comprises the extensions of the plantations opened up within the last two or three years. Over the total area some 2,163,603 trees are distributed, and from them a total dry bark harvest of about 13,000,000 lbs. may be expected within the next twelve years. During the year under report the harvest yielded 690,524 lbs. of dry bark as compared with 611,338 lbs. in the previous year.

Outturn.

320. The total quantity of bark worked up in the factory was 959,247 lbs. against 758,231 lbs. in the preceding year. The products yielded were 51,562 lbs. of sulphate of quinine, 1 lb. 14 oz. cinchonidine sulphate, 4 oz. cinchonine sulphate, 7,361 lbs. 4 oz. cinchona febrifuge, and 1,205 lbs. quinoidine (pure amorphous alkaloid). The total outturn of the factory was therefore 60,130 lbs. 6 oz. against 51,103$\frac{5}{7}$ lbs. manufactured during the previous year. This is the highest production on record. The stock of quinine at the close of the year stood at 162,964 lbs., showing an increase of 30·590 lbs. over that at the end of the previous year.

Forests.

[Forest Administration Report for the year 1913-14. Statistics of British India, Part IV (*b*).—Finance and Revenue.]

Administration.

321. There was a slight change during the year in the actual areas under the different classes of forest, due to the notification of an area of 294 acres in the Jalapahar Cantonment near Darjeeling as a protected forest. This measure was adopted at the instance of the military authorities in consequence of a decision to reafforest the slopes below the Cantonment, which have been practically denuded of forest growth. It will now be possible to afford protection to planted trees and natural growth by the prevention of grazing and of the illicit felling of timber. It is also desired to regulate quarrying. Some progress was made in the important work of demarcation in the Chittagong Forest Division, but in the Chittagong Hill Tracts Division the progress is still very slow. Surveys by local Forest Officers were made in all forest divisions. No new working plans were sanctioned during the year.

Communications and Buildings.

322. Steady progress continues to be made in the improvement of communications and buildings. Twelve miles of cart road were constructed at a cost of Rs. 7,737, thirty-nine miles of bridle path at a cost of Rs. 8,377, and twenty-two miles of foot-path at a cost of Rs. 1,565. In Kurseong some paths were aligned for construction in 1913-14. The amount spent on road repairs was Rs. 24,645. The total expenditure on communications for the year amounted to Rs. 42,324 as against Rs. 35,516 during the previous year. The construction of four rest-houses in the Darjeeling, Tista, Kurseong and Chittagong Divisions was finished and the work of construction of two other rest-houses in the Kurseong and Jalpaiguri Divisions was well advanced at the close of the year. The reconstruction of the buildings at Chittagong for a combined office and quarters was completed by the Public Works Department in December 1913. The total expenditure on new buildings and repairs (exclusive of Rs. 10,544 spent at Chittagong by the Public Works Department) was Rs. 52,053 as compared with Rs. 65,80) in the previous year.

Forest offences.

323. The number of forest offences reported during the year was 2,171 against 1,572 in the preceding year. The average for the previous three years was 1,518. The increase is attributed to increased activity on the part of the subordinate staff and to better supervision, particularly in regard to the improvement of the record of cases in which the offender was undetected.

Protection from fires.

324. The area in which special measures for fire protection were in force was 460,177 acres. Though the season was generally favourable to fire protection owing to rains during April, the area burnt over amounted to 5,764 acres as against 1,643 acres in the preceding year. The percentage of success was 98·7, as compared with 99·6 in 1912-13, the decrease being mainly due to malicious firing in the Savannah forest areas in the Buxa Division. Measures are under consideration for increasing the fire protection staff in these areas.

Protection from Cattle.

325. The percentages of forest open to grazing during the year were 17 for reserved forest and 3 for protected forest: the entire area of unclassed forest was open to grazing. The number of cattle reported as impounded during the year was 4,087 against 1,221 in 1912-13, while the average for the three years ending on the 30th June 1913 was 1875. The increase was mainly in the Jalpaiguri Division, though the Chittagong and Chittagong Hill Tracts Divisions also contributed to it.

Exploitation.

326. The operations in connection with the concessions granted to Messrs. Burn and Company, Limited, for the extraction of timber and bamboo from the forests in Darjeeling and Jalpaiguri Divisions have been postponed till the 1st April 1916 owing to delay in the execution of an agreement between that firm and the Sikkim State regarding a similar concession which it is proposed to work in combination with that granted in British territory. No new concessions were granted and no important changes in the existing methods of exploitation were made during the year. Minor forest produce

continues to be disposed of generally under permits at fixed rates, but aconite-roots in Darjeeling, *San* grass in Chittagong and *Chaulmugra* seeds in certain reserved forests of Chittagong and Chittagong Hill Tracts were sold under monopoly agreements during the year. Khedda operations were conducted by private individuals in the Kurseong, Tista, Jalpaiguri and Buxa forests. The operations in the two latter forests under the license granted to His Highness the Maharaja of Cooch Behar were successful and resulted in the capture of 30 elephants.

Mortality caused by wild animals.

327. The number of persons reported to have been killed by tigers in the Sundarbans was 81 as compared with 70 in the previous year and 112, the average for the last five years. The number of tigers killed during the year was 31.

Financial results.

328. The results of the year's working were satisfactory. The total revenue increased from Rs. 15,51,650 to Rs. 16,37,469, while the expenditure fell from Rs. 6,46,189 to Rs. 6,45,035. The surplus was Rs. 9,92,434 as compared with Rs. 9,05,461 in the preceding year and Rs. 7,04,465, the average of the past five years. The increased revenue was contributed by the Kurseong, Sundarbans, Jalpaiguri and Chittagong Divisions, the most noticeable increase being in the Sundarbans where there was a good demand for timber and *golpata*. There was a decrease of revenue in the Darjeeling, Tista, Buxa and Chittagong Hill Tracts Divisions; the greatest decrease occurred in Buxa where the receipts under departmental extraction were greatly reduced by the cessation of sleeper work in 1912.

Manufactures and Mines.

[Statistics of British India. Part I—Industrial.]

Jute.

329. During the year 1913-14 the estimated acreage under jute was 2,456,642 and the yield 7,939,939 bales. It was a more prosperous year for the industry than the preceding one as the number of working mills rose from 60 to 64, employing daily on an average 216,377 persons against 199,725 in the previous year. The numbers of looms and spindles working in these mills were 35,803 and 738,977, respectively. Two new mills were opened and eight extensions were made during the year. The working time in most of the mills was raised from 11 or 12 hours to 13½ hours. The nominal rupee and sterling capital employed was Rs. 7,86,71,000 and £3,388,358 and the paid-up capital Rs. 7,51,68,600 and £3,228,894.

Cotton.

330. Thirteen cotton mills were at work in 1913, employing 10,658 persons, against 15 mills and 11,425 persons in 1912. The numbers of looms and spindles were 2,908 and 316,216, respectively. The nominal capital employed was Rs. 1,02,00,000 and £200,000.

Tea.

331. The area under tea in 1913 was 156,002 acres, and the quantity of tea manufactured, chiefly black, was 80,108,705 lbs. compared with 70,524,169 lbs. in 1912. There were 285 plantations, employing a daily average of 102,902 permanent and 30,829 temporary hands. Foreign exports by sea from Bengal were valued at Rs. 13,12,76,430, which constitutes a fresh record.

Coal.

332. The number of coal-mines worked during the year 1913 was 184, being 19 more than in the previous year. The total output was 4,649,852 tons against 4,306,129 tons in the year 1912. The steady progress which the coal industry continued to make since 1909 was maintained. The daily average number of persons employed in the Bengal coal-fields, both below and above ground, rose to 38,553 as compared with 36,828 in 1912.

Iron.

333. In the Burdwan district 8,926 tons of iron-ore valued at £1,278 were produced during the calendar year 1913, as compared with 9,882 tons valued at £1,350 in 1912. The ore is worked by the Bengal Iron and Steel Company, Limited, of Kulti.

Saltpetre & Salt.

334. The quantity of refined saltpetre produced during the year in the three licensed saltpetre refineries in the Province was 5,351 maunds against 7,958 maunds in the previous year. The quantity of salt educed in

the process of refinement of saltpetre was 742 maunds against 608 maunds in 1912-13.

335. In 1913 the three paper mills in the Province produced paper valued at Rs. 67,24,493 as against Rs. 64,16,185 in 1912. **Paper.**

336. There was only one silk factory at work in the Province; it employed 145 hands. **Silk.**

337. The only regular sugar factory at work was in the 24-Parganas; it employed 751 hands as against 695 hands in 1912. **Sugar.**

MISCELLANEOUS MANUFACTURES IN EACH DIVISION.

[Report on the Land Revenue Administration of Bengal for the year 1913-14.]

338. In the 24-Parganas there are many flourishing industries both large and small. Most of the mills and factories are on the bank of the river Hooghly and in the suburbs of Calcutta. They employ a large number of labourers on good wages. From the Barasat subdivision fine needlework known as *chikan* (embroidery) is exported to Europe and Australia. Gauze for mosquito curtains and brass padlocks of superior quality are also manufactured in this sub-division. In the Basirhat sub-division the manufacture of brass padlocks and cutlery has been attended with success and the hand-weaving industry is in a prosperous condition. In Nadia the Mohini Cotton Mill at Kushtia has proved a successful enterprise. Handloom weaving is also an important industry in that sub-division. The manufacture of *chita gur* from molasses imported from Java is reported to be a profitable business in the district. In Murshidabad the silk industry has greatly declined, all but two of the filatures under European management having been closed. In Jessore the Button and Comb Factory, now in the fifth year of its existence, is turning out combs and buttons which will bear favourable comparison with the imported article. In the Narail sub-division tiles are being made after the Raniganj pattern. The hand-weaving industry there appears to be in a prosperous condition. In Khulna the business of exporting *hilsa* and *bhekti* fish to Calcutta and dried fish to Chittagong affords employment to a large number of men. **Presidency.**

339. In the Burdwan district the Bengal Iron and Steel Company at Kulti and the Railway Workshops, a Distillery and the Pottery and Tile Works of Messrs. Burn & Co. in the Asansol sub-division are reported to be thriving. There are also oil mills, paper mills and lime works at Raniganj and in its vicinity. Outside the Asansol sub-division certain local industries are found, such as the manufacture of cutlery at Kanchannagar within Burdwan town, and the manufacture of brass and bell-metal utensils at Dainhat and Bagunkhola in the Katwa sub-division. The older manufacturing industries in Birbhum are losing ground; the quantity of *tasar* silk woven is decreasing; cotton weaving is stationary. The manufacture of silk and *tasar* cloths, brass and bell-metal wares, cutlery, perfumed tobacco, country cigarettes, conch shells, etc., continued to prosper in Bankura where woollen blankets are also largely manufactured and exported. The Weaving School at Bankura has been made a permanent institution. **Burdwan.**

In Midnapore there has been no noticeable economic development during the year. There was brisk trade in cotton and *tasar* weaving and in *chikan* (embroidery) work, while industries in brass and bell-metal wares continued to flourish in Hooghly. Locks are manufactured at Gourhati in the Arambagh sub-division and a few mills for husking paddy were started in that sub-division and proved to be very profitable. A new factory (Messrs. Martin and Co.'s Howrah Dock and Engineering Works at Ghusury) was opened in Howrah. Small concerns, such as iron foundries, engineering works and oil mills, increased in number.

340. In Darjeeling mining leases for 158 acres of land have been given for the extraction of coal and limestone. In the district of Pabna the moribund weaving industry is reported to have received of late a considerable impetus. The Pabna cloth commanded a good market and the demand for the cloth resulted in an improvement of its texture and benefited the weaving **Rajshahi.**

classes. Several joint-stock companies have been formed in that district to manufacture hosiery and to work oil and *surki* mills and are reported to be thriving. In Malda the industry of preserving mangoes by modern scientific processes continued to prosper. In Rajshahi the silk trade is reported to be in a moribund condition.

Dacca. 341. In Dacca the manufacture of shell buttons, steel-trunks and cash-boxes, etc., has met with some success. The conch shell industry of Dacca also did a brisk trade during the year.

Chittagong. 342. In Chittagong the Oil Tinning Factory of Messrs. Jamal Brothers & Co. was fully employed during the year. The Shalimar Works of Messrs. Turner, Morrison Co., had a successful year. The Chittagong Ice Factory has been set on a better financial basis and supplies the demand of the town. The work of the ginning mill of the Kunda family was interrupted on account of partition among the co-sharers. The weaving school started at Cox's Bazar at Government expense is gaining in popularity.

Working of the Indian Factories Act, XII of 1911.

[Annual Report on the working of the above Act in Bengal for the year 1913. Statistics of British India Part I.—Industries.]

Number of factories and system of work. 343. The number of factories at the close of the year was 347 against 322 in 1912. Thirty-five new factories were brought under the operation of the Act during the year, viz., 12 in Calcutta, 6 in the 24-Parganas, 2 in Howrah, 2 in Hooghly, 1 in Burdwan, 1 in Dacca, 2 in Jalpaiguri, 1 in Rajshahi, 3 in Rangpur, and 5 in Darjeeling. In 145 factories work was carried on by means of shifts and in 155 with stoppages after intervals of six hours; 34 factories were exempted under paragraph C, Schedule I of the Act and in 7 factories other arrangements were in force.

Inspection. 344. One hundred and twenty-eight factories were inspected once, 74 factories twice, 39 factories three times, and 91 factories more than three times. Fifteen factories were not inspected during the year. The districts in which inspections were most frequent were the 24-Parganas, Howrah, Hooghly and Tippera; many inspections were also made of the factories in Calcutta. The officers of the Department continued to use the steam-launch *Esmé* in visiting the factories along the banks of the river.

Sanitary arrangements and quarters for operatives. 345. The sanitary arrangements of factories were generally satisfactory. Septic tank latrines were provided in 40 out of the 64 jute mills; these included 6 new installations erected during the year, all of an excellent type. Only one mill still follows the objectionable practice of discharging night soil into the river, and this mill is being pressed to discontinue it. In most of the larger factories the workers were provided with quarters. Rapid progress is being made in the extension and improvement of dwelling accommodation in mills, particularly in those which suffer from continual shortage of labour.

Water-supply. 346. The water-supply in factories was on the whole good Most of the larger mills have provided their own filtration plants for the supply of good water. Filtered water is supplied by the Howrah Municipality to the smaller factories in the Howrah district, but in the hot weather the supply runs short; it is hoped that this evil will be removed on the completion of the new water mains now under construction.

General health of the operatives. 347. The general health of the operatives continued to be satisfactory throughout the year and no serious sickness in epidemic form was brought to notice.

Wages and general condition of operatives. 348. There was no noticeable change in the rates of pay of labourers except in the case of skilled labour in Engineering and Shipping concerns. The rise of wages in these trades was due to the great demand for skilled labour at the Sara Bridge on the Eastern Bengal State Railway, and the Kiul and other bridges on the East Indian Railway.

Employment of women and children. 349. The rules framed under the Indian Factories Act, 1911, in respect of the employment of women and children were vigorously enforced during the year with the result that managers generally endeavoured to work up to the requirements of the Act. In all 31,421 children were certified under section 7

of the Act by the various Certifying Surgeons of Factories in the Province. Captain J. C. Gillmon, the whole-time Certifying Surgeon of Factories, alone certified 14,613 of these.

Fencing and machinery.

350. The machinery in mills and factories was well guarded, and no prosecution for neglect in this direction was instituted during the year.

Accidents.

351. The total number of accidents during the year was 1,181 compared with 1,113 during 1911. Of these 39 were fatal, 542 serious and 600 minor. The cause of the accidents in the majority of cases was negligence on the part of workers or direct disobedience of the standing orders of the factory.

Prosecutions.

352. Twelve prosecutions were instituted under the Indian Factories Act, XII of 1911, during the year; of these 10 ended in conviction. The remaining two cases were dropped.

Fires.

353. No serious fire in any factory was reported during the year.

Strikes.

354. There were a few comparatively unimportant strikes in some textile factories accompanying the demands of the operatives for a longer midday rest. These demands were generously met by the factory authorities by reducing the working hours without making any corresponding reduction in the labourers' wages.

Trade.

[Report on the Maritime Trade of Bengal for the year 1913-14. Annual Statement of the Sea-borne Trade and Navigation of the Bengal Presidency. Annual Statement of the Sea-borne Trade and Navigation of British India with the British Empire and Foreign countries. Annual Statement of the Coasting Trade and Navigation of British India. Review of the Trade of India. Statistics of British India, Part II.—Commercial.]

I.—FOREIGN SEA-BORNE TRADE.

[Report on the Maritime Trade of Bengal for the year 1913-14.]

Foreign trade.

355. The total trade (Foreign and Coasting) of the Province of Bengal amounted to Rs. 215 crores, an increase of Rs. 13 crores on the figures for 1912-13. This figure surpassed that of all previous years. The total foreign trade amounted to Rs. 185 crores, imports showing a growth of Rs. 10 crores and exports of Rs. 3 crores. The extent to which the foreign trade of the Province is centered in the chief port, Calcutta, will be apparent from the following figures (*in thousands of rupees*) :—

	Province.	Calcutta.	Chittagong.
Merchandise—	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Imports	72,08,09	70,68,80	1,39,29
Exports	1,02,75,10	97,90,23	4,84,87

The trade of the Port of Chittagong is made up chiefly of exports of tea and raw jute.

Treasure.

356. Imports of treasure were valued at Rs. 383 lakhs, as compared with Rs. 367 lakhs in 1912-13. Of this Rs. 238 lakhs were of gold, most of which came from Australia, China and Straits Settlements. Exports rose from Rs. 14·39 lakhs to Rs. 60·05 lakhs. of which Rs. 48·17 lakhs were of gold. State transactions in treasure during the year amounted to Rs. 304 lakhs, of which Rs. 301 lakhs represented imports and Rs. 3 lakhs exports of silver. With the exception of treasure valued at Rs. 1,91,521 imported into Chittagong, all the treasure imported into and exported from Bengal was received at or sent from Calcutta.

IMPORTS OF MERCHANDISE.

Principal articles imported into Calcutta.

357. The following table shows the comparative importance of the principal articles imported into Calcutta, excluding Government stores (*in thousands of rupees*) :—

	1911-12.	1912-13.	1913-14.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Cotton goods ...	22,74,01	29,22,91	29,82,58
Metals and ores ...	6,01,74	6,90,96	9,66,18
Sugar	5,20,76	5,70,73	6,46,74

	1910-11.	1911-12.	1912-13.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Railway plant and rolling stock	1,32,72	1,94,30	3,90,85
Machinery and mill-work ...	1,53,08	2,09,65	3,20,64
Mineral oils	1,75,52	1,64,67	1,89,57
Hardware and cutlery, including electroplated ware ...	1,22,20	1,27,06	1,54,34
Woollen goods	88,61	75,49	89,81
Drugs, medicines and chemicals	78,27	74,30	86,74
Liquors	62,45	66,27	68,70
Salt	64,81	62,09	65,87
Spices	66,64	67,51	68,52
Haberdashery and millinery	43,58	30,68	39,56
Apparel, excluding hosiery and boots and shoes ...	23,40	25,56	27,59
Tobacco.	23,45	26,18	25,15

Cotton goods. 358. The imports of cotton goods during 1913-14 showed an increase of Rs. 60 lakhs or 2 per cent. over the previous year and represented over 42 per cent. of the value of total imports. Arrivals of twist and yarn showed a decrease of 27 per cent. from those of 1912-13. The trade in piece-goods was marked by an improvement of Rs. 42 lakhs only. Grey goods showed a small increase, but white goods a decrease, while coloured goods advanced by nearly 20 million yards. Imports of hosiery increased by Rs. 19 lakhs to Rs. 69½ lakhs, of which Japan supplied 56½ lakhs. Handkerchiefs and shawls also increased in value by Rs. 13 lakhs to Rs. 37¼ lakhs. The year 1913-14 might be summed up as a profitable one for the Lancashire industry, but it became evident at the beginning of 1914 that a set-back was approaching.

Metals. 359. The volume of metals imported increased by 34 per cent., the aggregate value of Rs. 9·66 crores being higher than in any previous year. The past year was on the whole prosperous, although the boom ended in 1913. Imports of iron and steel in the past year were on a stupendous scale, quantity increasing by 33 per cent. and value by 38 per cent.

Galvanised-iron sheets rose by 54 per cent. Imports of wrought-iron and steel from the United Kingdom rose by 42 per cent. and accounted for 79 per cent. of the total trade. Germany absorbed 12 per cent. and Belgium 6 per cent. Transactions in brass (wrought) were considerable, rising in volume by 38 per cent. and in value by 43 per cent. Imports of unwrought-copper increased by 248 per cent. in volume and 253 per cent. in value, but the figures are still below those of the year 1910-11. Nearly the whole (95 per cent.) came from Japan. Wrought copper was imported on a much larger scale and the quantity increased by 37 per cent. Of the imports 77 per cent. came from the United Kingdom and 21 per cent. from Germany. Iron (unwrought) showed an expansion of 46 per cent. in volume. The trade in this is small, and, owing to the Bengal Iron Works and the Tata Iron Works, Calcutta is now in the position of a regular exporter of this commodity. Imports of tin have been the largest since 1909-10, and the quantity rose by 25 per cent. Fluctuations in prices were excessive.

Sugar. 360. Imports of refined Java sugar were 66,000 tons better than in 1912-13. Supplies of Mauritius sugar improved by 3,730 tons or 25 per cent. Imports of beet sugar from Austria-Hungary rose from 9,913 tons to 17,701 tons or by 79 per cent. The value rose by 65 per cent. and is the highest since 1905-06. The beet-root crop exceeded anticipations and the low freights that prevailed enabled beet sugar to compete with cane.

Molasses fell in quantity by 8 per cent. and in value by 6 per cent.; 96 per cent. came from Java, and the balance from Mauritius.

Mineral oils. 361. High prices continued in the oil trade and constituted its outstanding feature. Both the volume and value expanded. Kerosene oil imports rose by 15 per cent. in quantity and 21 per cent. in value. No kerosene was received from Russia, Roumania and Sumatra; but the quantity received from the United States advanced by 50 per cent. and that from Borneo by 16 per cent. 4·78 million gallons came in cases, an increase of 29 per cent. Bulk oil

rose by 13 per cent. to 25·92 million gallons. The quantity of Burma oil imported rose by about 12 per cent.

Machinery and mill-work.

362. Imports of machinery increased by 53 per cent. to Rs. 3·2 crores. The increase was mainly due to larger imports of jute mill machinery, which rose by Rs. 59 lakhs to Rs. 146 lakhs. The United Kingdom accounted for Rs. 3 crores or 93 per cent. of the total imports.

Railway plant and rolling stock.

363. Imports of railway plant and rolling-stock (on private and Government account) increased from Rs. 302 lakhs to Rs. 546 lakhs. Of this Rs. 155 lakhs were imported on Government account. The value of carriages and wagons rose by 111 per cent. to Rs. 325 lakhs and that of locomotives from Rs. 33 lakhs to 84 lakhs.

Hardware and cutlery.

364. There was an increase of 21 per cent. in the value of imports of hardware and cutlery, including electro-plated ware, the total coming up to Rs. 154 lakhs. This head includes many miscellaneous items, one of the largest of which is metal lamps ; the value of the imports of these was Rs. 21 lakhs. The United Kingdom stands pre-eminent in this trade, showing Rs. 96 lakhs, an expansion of 22 per cent.

Woollen-goods.

365. Imports of woollen goods increased by 19 per cent. to Rs. 90 lakhs, mainly on account of larger imports of piece-goods and shawls. About half of the imports consisted of piece-goods (Rs. 44½ lakhs), of which the United Kingdom supplied 84 per cent. An increase from Rs. 24 to Rs. 32 lakhs occurred in the case of shawls, of which 79 per cent. came from Germany and 15 per cent. from the United Kingdom.

Apparel.

366. There has been a change in the classification of the head apparel—(*1*) Boots and shoes and (*2*) haberdashery and millinery formerly included in the head have been made into separate main heads. Imports of apparel proper rose from Rs. 25·56 to Rs. 27·59 lakhs or by 8 per cent. The United Kingdom sent Rs. 18·67 lakhs, and Germany Rs. 3·12 lakhs. The increase was due to the more general adoption of European clothing by Indians. Boots and shoes were valued at Rs. 23·5 lakhs ; of this 95 per cent. came from the United Kingdom. Haberdashery and Millinery rose from Rs. 30·68 lakhs to Rs. 39·56 lakhs or by 29 per cent.

Salt.

367. The total importations of salt during the year (namely 486,160 tons) were 35,170 tons more than in 1912-13, and compared favourably with those of other years of the last quinquennium. The further decrease of 17,760 tons in imports from the United Kingdom was largely due to the fact that the regular liners had no difficulty in obtaining full cargoes of general merchandise and were only occasionally able to carry salt. The conclusion of the Turko-Italian war brought about the expected increase in arrivals from the Red Sea ports.

Spices.

368. Imports of spices were valued at Rs. 68·52 lakhs, and consisted of betel-nuts (Rs. 57 lakhs), cloves (Rs. 5 lakhs), pepper (Rs. 3 lakhs) and other less important spices. Split betel-nuts are gaining favour with the consumer and they are also cheaper. The Straits supplied 98 per cent. Imports of cloves from Zanzibar and Pemba exceeded the previous record. Foreign imports of pepper showed a decrease of 13 per cent.

Liquors.

369. Imports of beer decreased in quantity by 6 per cent. Brandy and whisky rose by 9 and 14 per cent., respectively. The quantity of wines imported (95,734 gallons) showed a decline of 7 per cent.

Chemicals, drugs and medicines.

370. Imports of chemicals, etc., showed an increase, the value rising by 17 per cent. to Rs. 86·74 lakhs. The United Kingdom supplied Rs. 60 lakhs, an increase of 13 per cent. Patent medicines rose from Rs. 8·42 to Rs 8·86 lakhs. The value of quinine was Rs. 9·63 lakhs with a decreased quantity. Imports on Government account dropped from 28,091 to 1,012 lbs. and Cinchona bark from 788,391 to 126,343 lbs. The value of chemicals rose by 18 per cent. to Rs. 43·23 lakhs. The figures are the highest on record.

Tobacco.

371. The imports of unmanufactured tobacco showed some increase, the quantity rising from 136,222 lbs. to 137,847 lbs. mostly from the United States. The improved demand for cigarettes in the previous year did not continue, and the number fell by 5 per cent. to 135 millions and the value from Rs. 17·58 lakhs to Rs. 16·94 lakhs. Imports of better-class cigarettes improved, while those of cheaper kinds fell off. Of the former 59 per cent. came from the United Kingdom and 41 per cent. from Egypt ; of the latter

95 per cent. came from the United Kingdom. Imports of cigars showed a slight decrease ; 45 per cent. of the amount consisted of Dutch cigars.

Eastern Bengal Ports.

372. The total foreign import trade (merchandise) of the Chittagong Port amounted to Rs. 141·2 lakhs, as compared with Rs. 86·87 and Rs. 66·41 lakhs, respectively, in 1912-13 and 1911-12. The chief imports were metals (Rs. 73·63 lakhs), salt (Rs. 7·09 lakhs), railway materials (Rs. 14·4 lakhs), tea chests (Rs. 8·37 lakhs), and cotton goods (Rs. 13·68 lakhs). The largest increase occurred in metals and railway plant.

Import trade of Calcutta with other countries.

373. The following statement shows how the import trade (merchandise only) of Calcutta with foreign countries was distributed :—

	1912-13. Rs. (lakhs).	1913-14. Rs. (lakhs).	1912-13. Per cent.	1913-14. Per cent.
United Kingdom	44,16	50,35	72·0	71·2
Other British Possessions ...	2,12	2,29	3·4	3·2
Germany	2,72	3,73	4·4	5·3
Java	5,12	5,75	8·3	8·1
United States	1,59	1,90	2·6	2·7
Japan	1,00	1,56	1·6	2·2
Belgium	99	1,16	1·6	1·6
Austria-Hungary	89	1,16	1·4	1·6
Total Imports (including other countries).	61,35	70,69	100	100

EXPORTS OF MERCHANDISE.

Principal articles exported from Calcutta.

374. The following table gives the values of the more important products in the export trade of Calcutta, and shows their comparative importance (*in thousands of rupees*) :—

	1911-12. Rs.	1912-13. Rs.	1913-14. Rs.
Jute, manufactured ...	15,92,72	22,76,63	28,19,96
Jute, raw ...	19,99,32	24,47,00	28 03,44
Tea	8,85,29	8,86,46	10,55,66
Hides and skins, raw	7,29,12	8,33,56	8,47,59
Grain and pulse ...	10,50,43	10,83,82	6,85,60
Seeds	7,35 32	4,11,41	3,59,08
Cotton, raw ...	81,55	1,16,12	2,02,01
Opium	6,71,48	5,69,57	2,01,38
Lac	1,96,19	2,05,91	1,91,46
Coal and coke ...	76,90	88,31	69,13
Hemp, raw ...	36,72	44,42	56,41
Mica	24,93	43,90	35,51
Indigo	30,57	17,85	17,75
Silk, raw	18,14	11,82	9,17

Jute, raw and manufactured.

375. The past year was a most prosperous one for the jute industry and the prices surpassed all previous records, the aggregate total of Rs. 28·03 crores of raw jute being higher than that of the previous year, which was itself a record. This great expansion in value is attributable to the high prices which had to be paid. Under jute manufactures also record totals were obtained, the value rising by 24 per cent. to Rs. 28·2 crores ; both gunny-bags and gunny-cloth contributed to this expansion, the former rose by 19 per cent. in quantity and by 30 per cent. in value, and the latter showed increases of 4 and 19 per cent., respectively. Combining both raw material and the finished product, the aggregate value rose by 19 per cent. from Rs. 47·24 crores to Rs. 56·23 crores, representing 58 per cent. of the total exports of Indian merchandise. Net collections for the Calcutta Improvement Trust amounted to Rs. 11·25 lakhs in the calendar year 1913 and to Rs. 2·87 lakhs for the first three months of 1914. Shipments of raw jute to the United Kingdom decreased by 17 per cent. ; but, though the lowest since

1910-11, they still comprised 35 per cent. of the export trade; Dundee took 966,297 bales and London 400,417 bales. The demands of Germany and the United States fell by 135,672 bales and 68,757 bales, respectively.

The general expansion in the outturn of gunny-bags and gunny-cloth was reflected in the export figures. The value of exported gunny-bags increased from Rs. 960 lakhs to Rs. 1,247 lakhs, and that of gunny-cloth rose from Rs. 1,305 lakhs to Rs. 1,558 lakhs. Of the total value of gunny-bags and gunny-cloth exported, the United States took Rs. 1,173 lakhs, Australasia Rs. 340 lakhs, the Argentine Republic Rs. 294 lakhs, and the United Kingdom Rs. 175 lakhs.

Grain and pulse.

376. The rainfall in the hot weather was abnormal; later on there was a material weakening of the monsoon current in the United Provinces, North-Western and Central India, while excessive rain and consequent floods adversely affected crops in parts of Bengal and Bihar and Orissa. Winter rain was defective in the United Provinces and elsewhere, and famine conditions prevailed. The result has been a short outturn of wheat and rice crops in Northern India. There was a great decrease in exports of food grains and pulses from Calcutta, the quantity falling by 44 per cent. and the value by 37 per cent. The exports of rice from Bengal fell from 9,897,214 cwts. valued at Rs. 687 lakhs to 6,540,332 cwts. with a value of Rs. 496 lakhs. The exports from Calcutta decreased by 31 per cent. in quantity and 26 per cent. in value. With the exception of Arabia and the Bahrein Islands, all countries took less rice than in the previous year, the quantity taken by Ceylon, the largest consumer, declining by 41 per cent.

Shipments of wheat and flour from Calcutta fell by 46 per cent. to 1,560,849 cwts. Of the total quantity, the United Kingdom took 76 per cent., France 7 per cent., and Belgium 6 per cent. Exports of barley fell by 65 per cent. to 1,084,997 cwts., while pulses fell from 3,334,016 cwts. to 1,513,539 cwts.

Tea.

377. There was a further increase (6 per cent. in quantity and 19 per cent. in value) in the shipments of tea from Calcutta, which were again the highest on record. Exports to the United Kingdom expanded by 8·8 per cent. in quantity and 23·4 per cent. in value. There was a considerable increase in the shipments to outside markets, except to the Ottoman Empire, the United States and Persia, which took, respectively, 1,847,924 lbs., 131,646 lbs. and 210,139 lbs. less. Russia, who is India's best customer after the United Kingdom, received 274,302 lbs., Canada 419,385 lbs., and China 1,839,181 lbs. more than in the previous year. The exports to Africa showed a decline.

Oil-seeds.

378. The total export of oil-seeds rose by 23 per cent. in quantity, but by reason of lower prices fell by 13 per cent. in value. The shipments of linseed increased from 165,000 tons to 200,000 tons. They constituted 90 per cent. of the total exports of oil-seeds from Calcutta. All countries except the United Kingdom and Germany took less than in the previous year. In the case of the United Kingdom the increase was 52 per cent. and in that of Germany 38 per cent. There was a large increase in the export of rape seed, the quantity rising from 803 to 7,858 tons and the value from Rs. 1·19 lakhs to Rs. 11·53 lakhs. All countries uniformly increased their demand. A considerable quantity is consumed by the numerous oil-mills in and around Calcutta, and the exports merely represent the surplus not required for local consumption: of the quantity of rape seed sent out, 40 per cent. went to France.

Hides and skins.

379. The number of hides shipped fell by 12 per cent., but owing to higher prices the value rose by 3 per cent.; the average value per hide also continued to rise. With the exception of Austria-Hungary and France, all countries took smaller quantities than in 1912-13. Germany continued to be the best customer with 38 per cent. of the shipments, followed by Austria-Hungary, the United States and Italy. Of the skins exported, 98 per cent. were goat skins. As usual the bulk went to the United States.

Opium.

380. The trade in opium with China absolutely ceased in 1913-14, no opium being sent to the Treaty Ports. The number of chests exported from Calcutta fell from 19,824 to 9,151 and the value from Rs. 569 lakhs to Rs. 201 lakhs.

Lac.

381. Exports of lac fell in quantity by 21 and in value by 7 per cent. The United Kingdom, the United States, and Germany are the principal customers; they all have taken less this year.

Cotton, raw.

382. The export of raw cotton in 1913-14 was unprecedented. It rose by 91 per cent. in quantity and 74 per cent. in value. With the exception of Belgium, the continent of Europe continued to take less but there was an abnormal demand from Japan and in a lesser degree from China, Japan taking 71 per cent. of the total exports.

Coal and coke.

383. There was a decline of 18 per cent. in the quantity and of 22 per cent. in the value of coal and coke sent to foreign ports. The output in Bengal increased during the year, but some shortage in wagon supply caused a temporary rise in the price. All countries, except the Straits Settlements and New Zealand, reduced their purchases. The exports of bunker coal rose by 54,000 tons to 1,010,000 tons.

Indigo.

384. The quantity of exported indigo again fell by 5 per cent., the value being almost stationary. Most countries continued to take less, except the United Kingdom and Turkey in Asia. The United Kingdom took 2,978 cwts. and Turkey 2,682 cwts., valued respectively at Rs. 5·65 lakhs and Rs. 5·34 lakhs.

Silk, raw.

385. Exports of raw silk continued to decline, and in the past year the quantity fell by 6 per cent. and the value by 22 per cent. Of 571,912 lbs. exported France took 393,455 lbs. and the United Kingdom 151,411 lbs.

Eastern Benga Ports.

386. The value of the merchandise exported from ports in Eastern Bengal exceeded Rs. 484 lakhs, and consisted almost entirely of tea (Rs. 280 lakhs) and raw jute (Rs. 201 lakhs). The total exports were valued at Rs. 534 lakhs and Rs. 555 lakhs in 1911-12 and 1912-13, respectively.

Export trade with other countries.

387. The following statement shows the relative shares of the principal countries in the export trade (merchandise only) of Calcutta :—

	1912-13.	1913-14.	1912-13.	1913-14.
	Rs. (lakhs).	Rs. (lakhs).	Per cent.	Per cent.
United Kingdom ...	23,71·17	25,11·17	25·06	25·65
Other British Possessions	15,87·51	12,76·13	16·78	13·03
United States	15,51·14	18,53·13	16·36	18·93
Germany	10,68·94	11,22·01	11·29	11·46
South America	4,44·99	4,44·64	4·7	4·6
Austria-Hungary ...	3,04·27	3,98·01	3·21	4·06
France	3,72·30	3,59·83	3·93	3·7
Japan	1,78·84	2,75·46	1·89	2·8
Italy	2,31·65	2,46·81	2·44	2·5
Russia	1,81·35	2,08·27	1·91	2·11
Java	1,34·97	1,50·65	1·42	1·53
China Treaty Ports ...	1,84·57	1,10·91	1·95	1·13
Belgium	1,55·95	94·39	1·65	·96
Total Exports (including other countries).	94,60·83	97,90·23	100	100

II—FRONTIER TRADE.

[Report on the Frontier Trade of Bengal for the year 1913-14.]

Frontier Trade.

388. Exclusive of the movements of treasure, the registration of which continued to be defective, the total value of the trade with the adjacent States of Sikkim. Nepal, Tibet and Bhutan in the year ending the 31st March 1914, amounted to Rs. 123·75 lakhs. This figure represents an increase of Rs. 30·58 lakhs or about 33 per cent.

Imports into Bengal.

389. Of the total value of the imports into Bengal (Rs. 82 lakhs), 38 per cent. came from Sikkim, 36 per cent. from Nepal, 22 per cent. from Tibet, and the balance of about 3 per cent. from Bhutan. The principal articles of import into Bengal were—from Sikkim, animals (Rs. 7·89 lakhs), grain and pulse (Rs. 4·9 lakhs), metals, brass and copper (Rs. 1·6 lakhs), *ghi* (Rs. 1·3 lakhs) and spices (Rs. 3·2 lakhs) (it is worthy of note that during the year under report Bengal received 2,795 maunds of copper from Sikkim, valued at Rs. 153,835) ; from Nepal, animals (Rs. 19·5 lakhs), fruits, vegetables and

nuts (Rs. 5·8 lakhs) and provisions, chiefly *ghi* (Rs. 2·3 lakhs); from Tibet, raw wool, which constituted the main staple of import (45,291 maunds, valued at Rs. 12·78 lakhs), musk and yák's tails, valued jointly at Rs. 1·24 lakhs; from Bhutan, animals, valued at Rs. 1·18 lakhs.

Exports from Bengal.

390. Of the total exports (Rs. 41 lakhs), 38 per cent. went to Sikkim, 34 per cent. to Nepal, 23 per cent. to Tibet, and about 5 per cent. to Bhutan. The exports from Bengal to Sikkim consisted mainly of provisions (Rs. 3·4 lakhs), cotton manufactures (Rs. 2·6 lakhs), grain and pulse (Rs. 1·5 lakhs) and metals and manufactures thereof (Rs. 1·3 lakhs); to Nepal, cotton manufactures (Rs. 5·6 lakhs) and metals (Rs. 75,000); and to Tibet, cotton piece-goods (Rs. 6·2 lakhs) and woollen piece-goods (Rs. 96,000). The principal commodities exported to Bhutan were cotton piece-goods, valued at Rs. 60,000, and spices at Rs. 73,000.

III.—COASTING TRADE.

[Report on the Maritime Trade of Bengal for the year 1913-14.]

Coasting trade.

391. Including Government stores and treasure, the total value of the coasting trade of the Province of Bengal amounted to over Rs. 29·6 crores, a decrease of Rs. 50 lakhs. In Calcutta, to which over 85 per cent. of the trade belongs, there was an increase in imports of private merchandise from Rs. 8·55 crores to Rs. 11·09 crores, while exports declined by Rs. 102 lakhs. More than half the trade was with Burma. The enormous purchases of rice and paddy from Burma to adjust the deficiency caused by partial crop failure in Upper India accounted for the increase in the import trade. Imports of mineral oil from Burma increased by 5 per cent. Receipts of groundnuts from Madras declined from Rs. 58 lakhs to Rs. 12 lakhs owing to heavy foreign demand. Sugar improved slightly. Exports of rice, paddy, gram, pulse and wheat-flour declined, but those of jute manufactures, unmanufactured tobacco and Indian pig-iron improved. The quantity of coal increased but owing to lower prices the value showed a decline.

IV.—TRADE BY RAILWAY AND RIVER.

[Report on the Trade carried by Rail and River in the year 1913-14.]

Rail and River-borne trade.

392. The main divisions of this trade and its estimated value are exhibited in the following table :—

Year.		Imports into Bengal, including Calcutta from other provinces.	Exports from Bengal, including Calcutta to other provinces.	Imports into Calcutta from the rest of Bengal.	Exports from Calcutta to the rest of Bengal.
1913-14 ...	Mds.	196,102,324	66,168,190	135,852,100	41,519,657
	Rs.	58,28,29,106	49,22,48,722	59,28,04,187	40,26,96,825
1912-13 ...	Mds.	202,441,708	66,166,435	145,741,212	34,942,777
	Rs.	55,90,81,957	43,77,15,673	55,30,61,721	34,36,51,182

The imports into Bengal, including Calcutta, were valued at Rs. 58 crores, of which 37 per cent. came from Bihar and Orissa, 23 per cent. from Assam, 22 per cent. from the United Provinces, 6 per cent. from the Central Provinces and Berar, 2 per cent. from the Punjab, and the balance of 10 per cent., from other provinces. Of the total exports (Rs. 49 crores), 39 per cent. went to Bihar and Orissa, 28 per cent. to the United Provinces, 14 per cent. to Assam, 7 per cent. to the Punjab, 3 per cent. to the Central Provinces and Berar, and the remainder, 9 per cent., to other provinces.

Imports into Bengal.

393. The principal articles of import into Bengal, including Calcutta, were, from Bihar and Orissa, coal and coke (Rs. 4 crores), oil-seeds (Rs. 3·3

crores), grain and pulse (Rs. 1·8 crores), railway materials (Rs. 2·7 crores), jute (Rs. 1·7 crores), hides and skins (Rs. 1·3 crores) and lac (Rs. 67 lakhs); from the United Provinces of Agra and Oudh, grain and pulse (Rs. 3 crores), oil-seeds (Rs. 2·9 crores), hides and skins (Rs. 1·5 crores), *ghi* (Rs. 86 lakhs), opium (Rs. 79 lakhs) and lac (Rs. 65 lakhs); from Assam, tea (Rs. 9·5 crores), grain and pulse (Rs. 1·2 crores) and jute (Rs. 1·2 crores); from the Central Provinces and Berar, raw cotton, (Rs. 1·4 crores), wheat (Rs. 68 lakhs) and hides (Rs. 30 lakhs); and from the Punjab, hides and skins (Rs. 44 lakhs) and wheat (Rs. 23 lakhs).

Exports from Bengal.

394. The exports from Bengal, including Calcutta, to Bihar and Orissa comprised mainly cotton manufactures (Rs. 8 crores), metals and manufactures of metals (Rs. 2·6 crores), sugar (Rs. 1 crore), oils, chiefly kerosene (Rs. 1 crore), grain and pulse (Rs. 1 crore), salt (Rs. 72 lakhs), spices (Rs. 44 lakhs) and gunny-bags (Rs. 43 lakhs); to the United Provinces of Agra and Oudh, cotton manufactures (Rs. 5·3 crores), sugar (Rs. 1·9 crores), metals and manufactures of metals (Rs. 1·9 crores), kerosene oil (Rs. 69 lakhs), railway plant and rolling-stock (Rs. 66 lakhs) and gunny-bags and cloth (Rs. 51 lakhs); to Assam, cotton manufactures (Rs. 1·6 crores), metals and manufactures of metals (Rs. 1·5 crores), and sugar (Rs. 42 lakhs); to the Punjab, cotton manufactures (Rs. 1 crore), gunny-bags and cloth (Rs. 61 lakhs), metals and manufactures of metals (Rs. 51 lakhs) and sugar (Rs. 9 lakhs); while exports to the Central Provinces and Berar consisted principally of gunny-bags and cloth (Rs. 30 lakhs), kerosene oil (Rs. 17 lakhs), cotton piece-goods—foreign (Rs. 16 lakhs), and sugar (Rs. 14 lakhs).

PUBLIC WORKS.

Establishment.

Establishment.

395. As the work to be done by the Consulting Architect to the Government of Bengal has increased largely in recent years, the Consulting Architect has found it impossible to undertake the development of the sketch projects which have to be prepared in connection with the establishment of a University at Dacca. It was therefore decided to apply for sanction to the appointment of an Assistant Architect with considerable experience, and an additional Assistant Architect, Mr. W. I. Keir, has since been appointed by the Secretary of State for a period of three years from the 18th April 1914.

In response to appeals from clerks and others in Public Works Department offices for increase of pay and better prospects, the Government of Bengal in March 1911 appointed a Committee, consisting of a Superintending Engineer, Public Works Department, as President, and two members, viz., a Civil Servant and the Controller of Office Systems, Bengal. to enquire into the volume, description and method of work in those offices and to consider the question of revising the pay of the establishment. The Committee's report was received in August of the same year, and was forwarded to the Superintending Engineers for criticism and report, but before all the replies were received, the territorial changes of April 1912 took place. These changes so altered the constitution and jurisdiction of all the Public Works Department Circles in Bengal that it was impossible to estimate what changes would have to be made in the recommendations of the Committee. It was accordingly decided to await the experience of a year's working before coming to a decision in the matter. On receipt of further information, subsequently called for, the proposals of the Committee, with slight modifications, were brought into effect from the 1st March 1914.

Duars Roads Division.

396. The question of the improvement of communication by road in the Duars, the necessity for which had been repeatedly brought to the attention of Government and the consideration of which had always been postponed for want of funds, was taken up during the year. It was decided to set aside a certain sum for expenditure during the next 4 or 5 years, but as work in the existing Jalpaiguri Division is heavy, and the works to be carried

out in connection with the Police and Educational Departments were scattered all over the district, the Executive Engineer of that Division could not possibly have carried out the surveys and construction work in connection with the programme of road construction which had been decided upon. A temporary Division called the "Duars Roads Division" was therefore sanctioned with effect from the 1st December 1913 to enable the work to be completed as quickly as funds would admit.

Buildings.

397. The total outlay of the year on works amounted to Rs. 1,27,60,600, of which Rs. 80,60,403 were spent by the Public Works Department and Rs. 47,00,197 by local authorities. Of the expenditure of Rs. 80,60,403 incurred by the Public Works Department Rs. 12,68,240 were spent on Imperial works, Rs. 66,56,318 on Provincial Works, and Rs. 1,35,845 on local and contribution works. **Expenditure.**

IMPERIAL WORKS.

398. The total expenditure on the extension of the salt *golas* at Salkea up to the end of the year amounted to Rs. 3.51,681. The *golas* G, H, I, J, K, L and M, as well as the workshops and menials' quarters were completed and made over to the Customs Department; two new pontoons were fixed and completed and the cradle pontoons and short gangways were nearly completed. Lights and fans were also installed in the new quarters of the Inspectors of the salt *golas*. **Civil Works. Salt.**

The new salt *golas* at Chittagong were still under construction, the principal work carried out being the laying of reinforced cement concrete floors in all the *golas* to make them water-proof. Earthwork for the railway sidings and the construction of culverts for the proper drainage of the compound were in progress. The foundations of two weigh-bridges, two sheds in front of the *golas*, quarters for subordinate officers and additional quarters for menials were completed.

399. The remodelling of the clerks and menials' latrines and urinals at the General Post Office, Calcutta, which was commenced last year, was still in progress at the end of the year. **Post and Telegraph Offices.**

The following works which were in progress last year were completed during the year:—

The combined Post and Telegraph Office building with quarters for the Post Master at Alipore; the extension of the Central Telegraph Office at Calcutta at a cost of Rs. 7,36,976; the extension of the combined Post and Telegraph Office building at Burdwan; additions and alterations to the combined Post and Telegraph Office at Raniganj; additions and alterations to the Post Office and Post Master's quarters at Barisal and additions and alterations to the godown of the Telegraph Office at Mymensingh to convert the building into telegraphists' quarters; quarters for signallers at Nagrakatta; the combined Post and Telegraph Office building at Morelganj; the combined Post and Telegraph Office building with quarters for the Sub-Post Master at Bagerhat; the construction of a verandah in front of the Post and Telegraph Office at Diamond Harbour. A combined Post and Telegraph Office at Kumarkhali, for which materials had been collected last year, was nearly completed.

In addition to the above, certain additions and alterations to the Sub-Post Master's quarters at Satkhira were carried out, and the construction of a Post Office building for the Midnapore Civil Court combined office and of a combined Post and Telegraph Office for Balurghat was commenced.

400. A fire-alarm system was put up at the new Imperial Secretariat in Council House Street. **Secretariat buildings.**

401. Electric lights were installed in the galleries, verandah, entrances and staircases of the Calcutta Museum; lights and fans were also provided in the quarters of the Superintendent and Assistant Superintendent of the **Museum.**

Museum. The courtyards of the servants' quarters were paved with Indian patent stone.

Surveyor-General's Office.

402. Electric lights were installed in the Photo-litho Office of the Surveyor-General's office.

Churches and Cemeteries.

403. The construction of the bearers' lodge at the Jalpaipuri Church was completed and a lych gate was constructed at the Jalpaiguri Cemetery.

Lord Bishop's Palace.

404. Certain additions and alterations to the Bishop's Palace in connection with the supply of modern sanitary fittings were in progress. The electric installation was thoroughly overhauled.

Printing.

405. The new Press buildings at No. 166 Dhurrumtollah Street, were completed during the year and an electric pump was installed in connection with a fire protection scheme. A ventilating fan was also erected in the type foundry of the building at a cost of Rs. 6,214. The installation of electric fans in the three-storied building, compositors' room and books and store branch of the Press was completed. The rewiring of the existing points, the replacing of all the main distribution boards and the supplying of additional distribution boards in the east and west wings of the Central Press were completed.

Stamps and Stationery Office.

406. The Stamps and Stationery building, No. 2 Church Lane, was completed.

Mines.

407. Quarters for the Mining Inspector at Asansol, together with an office and quarters for his clerk, were completed.

PROVINCIAL WORKS.

High Court.

408. Certain additions and alterations were carried out in the east block on the first floor of the High Court building and electric fans were installed in the Appellate Side of the Old High Court building.

Revenue and Judicial Courts.

409. Record racks were provided in the courts of the Subordinate Judge and the 4th Munsif of Burdwan and also in the Judge's Court at Berhampore. Additions and alterations in the Civil Court at Dubrajpur, the double Munsifi at Vishnupur and the Munsif's Court at Khatra were completed. The Magistrate's Court at Krishnagar was extended to provide accommodation for the Police office. An additional building for the Sub-Divisional Court at Narail was completed. A single Munsifi at Asansol, a new Civil Court at Bankura and a double Munsifi at Magura were in progress. The Khas Tahsil office at Banchanagar was completed. The additions to the Collectorate at Barisal, which were started in 1912-13, were completed, and the alterations to the building were in progress. The Commissioner's office at Jalpaiguri was completed. Iron racks were provided in the Rajshahi Collectorate. The re-roofing of the 1st Munsif's Court at Rangpur was in progress and a temporary Court House for the additional Munsif at Balurghat was completed. The Treasury and Police office and also the improvements to the Sub-Divisional Court at Sirajganj were completed. The additions and alterations to the Munsif's Court at Ulubaria, which were taken in hand in 1912-13, were nearly finished. A Khas Tahsil office at Contai was under construction and nearly completed. The Settlement Press building and store at Midnapore were in progress.

Sub-Divisional Officers' and Munsifs' residences.

410. Good progress was made during the year in providing residences for Sub-Divisional Officers and Munsifs. New quarters completed for the 2nd Munsif at Bolpur, the Munsif at Chuadanga and the Sub-Divisional Officers at Kandi and Katwa. Additions and alterations were also carried out in the Munsif's quarters at Magura and Narail. The construction of quarters for a Deputy Magistrate at Asansol and for a Muhammadan Deputy Collector at Jessore was commenced. The improvements in the Sub-Divisional Officer's residence at Bangaon were in progress. Additions and alterations to the Sub-Divisional Officer's residence at Asansol were completed as also the improvements to the servants' quarters attached to the Sub-Divisional Officer's residence at Jhenidah. A residence for the Sub-Divisional Officer at Tangail was in progress, and a residence for the Sub-Divisional Officer at Rajbari was started. The residences for the 1st and 2nd Munsifs at Basirhat were completed. The two Munsifs' quarters at Diamond Harbour were nearly completed. The

construction of quarters for the Sub-Deputy Collector at Satkhira was commenced. The Sub-Deputy Collector's quarters at Basirhat were nearly completed and an addition was made to the Treasury Guard's quarters at that place. The residence for the Sub-Deputy Collector at Diamond Harbour was completed.

411. *Punkhas* were supplied to the Circuit-house at Bandel. Electric fans and lights were installed in the Circuit-house at Chittagong. A private house at Pabna was acquired at a cost of Rs. 22,000 for use as a circuit-house. **Circuit-houses.**

412. The construction of the excise warehouse at Bankura was in progress and the excise building at Krishnagar for which materials had been collected last year was completed. The Bonded Liquor Warehouse at Comilla was completed. Improvements to the *ganja qola* at Naugaon and the *ganja* warehouse at Balurghat were carried out. The staff quarters for the bonded werehouse at Luksan were also completed. **Excise.**

413. The construction of the various buildings for the accommodation of His Excellency the Governor's Body-guard was commenced in September on the Kidderpore Orphanage grounds and on the portion of the Cavalry lines recently made over for the purpose and was completed by the 31st March. The installation of lights, fans and bells in the Executive Council room in Government House, Calcutta, was completed at a cost of Rs. 4,567. The laying out of the grounds of Government House, Chittagong, raising the low lands and construction of drains round the building were completed. An electric installation was provided for Governmont House at Chittagong. The following works in connection with Government House, Darjeeling, were completed :— **Residences for the Local Government.**

(1) New kitchen wing.
(2) Clerks' quarters.
(3) New servants' quarters near kitchen wing (42 servants).
(4) Band Master's quarters.
(5) Cook-room for married Bandsmen.
(6) New rickshaw shed.
(7) Telephone Exchange room.
(8) Alterations in the clerks' office of the Military Secretary to the Governor.
(9) Married Bandsmen's quarters.
(10) Unmarried Bandsmen's quarters.

The dismantling and reconstruction of the conservatory at Lowlands Place, Darjeeling, were almost completed.

414. Wrought-iron racks were erected in the ground-floor rooms, Block No. 5, Writers' Buildings, for the storage of historical records. An electric installation for the use of the portion of the Bengal Secretariat Branch Press, at present occupying part of No. 3 Koila Ghât Street, was completed in March 1914. Lights and fans were installed in the rooms occupied by the Revenue Department in Writers' Buildings at a cost of Rs. 2,051. Quarters for 40 Secretariat peons at Darjeeling were completed. **Secretariat Offices.**

415. A sum of Rs. 4,102 was spent up to the 31st March 1914 for collection of materials required for the construction of a residence for the Superintendent of Police in the 24-Parganas district, Alipore. Additions and alterations in the electric installation in the Medical Officer's quarters at the Presidency General Hospital were carried out. The additions and alterations to the residence of the Superintendent of Police at Jessore were completed. Additions and alterations to the Civil Surgeon's residence at Suri were commenced, and a residence for the Civil Surgeon of Murshidabad was purchased at a cost of Rs. 33,000. Residences for the Assistant Superintendents of Police were also under construction at Comilla, Patuakhali (Bakarganj district) and Madaripur (Faridpur district). The construction of an office and residence for the Superintendent of Police at Faridpur was in progress. Additions and alterations to the District Judge's residence at Pabna were completed. The improvements to the out-houses of the residence of the Superintendent of Police, Jalpaiguri, and to the residence of the Superintendent of Police, Pabna, were completed. Improvements to the residence of the Superintendent of Police, Bogra, were in progress. The construction of the Civil **Residences for Government officials.**

Surgeon's residence at Rangpur was commenced and good progress was made during the year. The work of providing wire-fencing on the east and west sides of the compound of the Civil Surgeon's quarters and of constructing his office at Dinajpur was commenced. The construction of a residence for the District Judge of Khulna was taken in hand and three-fourths of the work was done during the year. Additions and alterations were made to the residence of the Superintendent of Police at Khulna at a cost of Rs. 10,196. The Civil Surgeon's residence at Khulna was commenced and three-fourths of the work done.

Jails. 416. The construction of the Press building attached to the Central Jail at Alipore was still in progress. A sum of Rs. 3,237 was spent on the construction of two dumping stations for this jail. The building for the storage of forms in connection with this Press was completed and a sum of Rs. 2,81,492 was spent on it up to the 31st March 1914. The installation of 160 lights, 15 fans and one goods lift in the Forms Block of this jail was in progress and Rs. 14,936 was spent during the year. The Civil Jail and the under-trial ward for 10 European prisoners in the New Presidency Jail, Calcutta, were completed. A portion of the Motijhil within the compound of this jail was filled up and the installation of an electric pump for the Jute Mill was taken in hand. Quarters were constructed for the Jailors and the Head warders at the Barasat Sub-Jail. The reconstruction of wards Nos. 5 to 7 in the Burdwan Jail was completed. The construction of Warders' quarters and an office in the Subsidiary Jail at Katwa and the construction of the solitary cells and replacement of two barrack latrines by cage latrines in the Bankura Jail were also completed. Twelve sets of cubicles were provided in the District Jail at Suri. A modified scheme for extending the pipe-water supply in the jail at Barisal was nearly completed. The construction of work-sheds and a godown and the extension of the jail compound at Mymensingh were completed. The construction of certain small buildings for the Jail at Dacca was still in progress at the close of the year. The enclosure walls of the District Jail at Comilla which were partially built under the old scheme for a second class Central Jail were completed and new enclosure walls to join up the walls of the old scheme were also built. Quarters for the Sub-Assistant Surgeon attached to this jail were completed. The construction of several new buildings proposed in connection with the Noakhali Jail was postponed owing to the town being threatened by the erosion of the banks of the Megna river, but certain improvements were carried out in the jail. The Assistant Jailor's quarters, Darjeeling, were completed. The married warders' and Head warders' quarters in the Bogra Jail were completed and the hospital was completed up to roof level. A new workshed for "B" class prisoners in the Rajshahi Central Jail was completed and the extension of the Jailor's office was nearly completed. The construction of family quarters for the Head warders of the sub-jail at Balurghat was in progress.

Police. 417. To afford adequate accommodation for the Police Officers at Lal Bazar Police-station, the reconstruction of the Sergeants' barracks on the old site was started in November 1913 and more than half the work was completed by the end of the year. In connection with the widening of Chowringhee Road, the Birjitolla Outpost building was constructed on another site and the old building dismantled. Certain additions and alterations were carried out in premises No. 4 Kyd Street, to suit the requirements of the Police Court, Southern Division. Similar additions and alterations were carried out at the Jorabagan *thana* to accommodate the Police Court, Northern Division, and an electric installation was provided. A barrack for 120 armed police with necessary subsidiary buildings, including European Sergeants' and *Jamadars'* quarters, was built at Paikpara. A rifle range and a room for examining bombs, etc., were constructed at Tollygunge at a cost of Rs. 2,860. The constables' barrack and quarters for Inspectors and Sub-Inspectors in the compound known as Ross's Distillery, Sibpur, were completed at a cost of Rs. 2,21,762. The Police Hospital, with out-houses, at Chinsura and the Police-station building at Rampur Hât were in progress. The *Sadar* Police-station at Bankura and the Police Outpost at Khiruabazar, Chinsura, were also in progress. The Police hospital at Bankura was completed. The reconstruction of the Police buildings at Muktagacha,

Mymensingh district, and of the Police buildings at Bethua, Dacca district, was completed. The Police buildings at Kaliganj and the Police residential buildings at Manikganj were also completed Several District Police buildings in the Mymensingh, Noakhali and Bakarganj districts were in progress. That portion of the project for the construction of Reserve Police Lines at Chittagong, consisting of the levelling off of hill tops and the lay-out of building sites and parade ground was carried out. In the Dacca Military Police Lines at Philkhana three double-storied barracks for single men, quarters for nine *Havildars*, and barracks for married men, as well as the magazine were completed and the hospital was nearly completed. The dismantling of the existing Reserve Police Office and erection of a new Police-station on the same site at Darjeeling, a single-storied Police barrack near the Cantonment at Lebong and the Police Office building, Pabna, were completed. A barrack for 4 Head-constables and 50 constables and quarters for the Armed Police Sub-Inspector, Reserve Police lines, Dinajpur, were also completed. The Police buildings at Nandigram and the Police lines at Rangpur were practically finished. The following works in connection with the Police barracks at Bloomfield Spur, Darjeeling, were in Progress :—

(1) Quarters for Armed Inspector and Armed Sergeant.
(2) Quarters for 50 married constables and 20 single men and 4 Head-constables for Armed Reserve.
(3) Quarters for Reserve Sub-Inspector and another Sub-Inspector.
(4) Ordinary reserve barrack for 60 married and 28 single men and 8 Head-constables.
(5) Latrine for constables with septic tank, etc.
(6) Magazine, quarters, guard and reserve office and water-supply.

The following works in connection with the Police Training School, Sarda, were also in progress :—

(1) Quarters for 2 Deputy Superintendents.
(2) Quarters for 6 Inspectors.
(3) Quarters for 6 Sub-Inspectors.
(4) Dispensary building.
(5) Obstacle Course.

Quarters were constructed for the Inspector of Police at Satkhira. The construction of a barrack with cook-room and privy required for the accommodation of 2 Head-constables and 24 constables at the *Sadar* Police-station, Khulna, was taken up during the year and nearly completed. Quarters were also constructed for the European Inspector of Armed Police at Midnapore.

Educational.

418. Land was acquired for the extension of the Presidency College, the Presidency College hostel, the hostel for the Metropolitan College and the hostel for the Ripon College. A hostel was constructed for the students of the Barrackpore Government School. Quarters were provided for the Head Master of the Government School at Barasat. The Muhammadan hostel attached to the Hooghly College was completed, and the Muhammadan hostel at Jessore, which was in progress last year, was partly completed. The extensions of the Hindu hostels attached to the Hooghly College and the Jessore Zilla School were in progress. The Hindu hostel attached to the Bankura Zilla School was nearly completed. A four-seated latrine and urinal was built for the Hooghly Collegiate School, and protective works were constructed in connection with the *ghât* attached to the College. The hostel and Head *Pandit's* quarters attached to the *guru*-training school at Manigram and the *guru*-training school main building at Ramnagar were completed. The addition of a second storey to the hostel attached to the school of engineering at Dacca and the construction of the Faizunnessa Girls' School at Comilla and the Girls' School and Mistress's quarters at Faridpur were completed. The construction of Dr. Khastagir's Girls' School at Chittagong was in progress. The Muhammadan hostel at Cox's Bazar was half completed and the out-house nearly completed. The *guru*-training school buildings at Charia, Chittagong district, were practically completed. The *guru*-training school

building at Aliganj, Tippera district, was well in hand and the hostels and cook-sheds were completed. The High School building at Rangamati was completed and the out-houses were commenced. The hostel, Hostel Superintendent's quarters and playground in connection with the High School, Darjeeling, were completed. Improvements to the passage between the dressing rooms at the two ends, the *dhobis'* quarters, laundry, tank and a cooking-range at the north end of the Victoria Boys' School, Kurseong, were made. The outside walls of the dormitory, Dow Hill Girls' School at Kurseong, were covered with cement plaster as the walls were very damp. The *guru*-training school at Jalpaiguri and a new building to provide additional accommodation for the Malda Zilla School were completed. The new school building and hospital for St. Paul's School, Darjeeling, were in progress. Improvements to the Bayley-Gobindalal Technical School, Rangpur, and the extensions of the zilla schools at Rangpur and Jalpaiguri were also in progress. The brick-work of the hostels and cook-houses of the *guru*-training school at Nilphamari was completed and that of the main building was done up to plinth level. The hostel for the Muhammadan students of the Pabna Zilla School and the extension of the Hindu and Muhammadan hostels attached to the Malda Zilla School were in progress. The Physical Laboratory of the Rajshahi College was nearly finished and a large plot of land of the value of Rs. 23,117 was acquired for constructing a Hindu hostel for the College. The house of Ramjanuddin Paikar at Bogra was purchased for use as a hostel, etc., for the Industrial School at a cost of Rs. 11,100. Improvements in the sanitation of the Dow Hill Girls' School, Kurseong, were commenced during the year and made good progress; the filter beds and the septic tank were practically completed. The hostels for Hindu and Muhammadan students and also the Superintendent's quarters for the Hindu Academy at Daulatpur, which were commenced in the previous year were completed at a cost of Rs. 43,436 and Rs. 6,167, respectively. The extension of the hostel building attached to the Khulna Zilla School was completed at a cost of Rs. 11,121. A residence for the Head Master of the Zilla School at Khulna was under construction. The *guru*-training school building at Gorodoro was thoroughly repaired and a new *guru*-training school at Amta was completed. The improvements to the *guru*-training school buildings at Joynagar and Kulpi were nearly completed.

Hospitals and Dispensaries.

419. The School of Tropical Medicine and Biological Laboratory, Medical College, Calcutta, was started in January 1914 and two-thirds of the masonry in the foundation was completed, piling being driven where the foundation was unsatisfactory. A scullery was constructed for the Eden Hospital, Calcutta, and the Hindu and Muhammadan cook-rooms for the Medical College Hospital, Calcutta, were completed. Improvements to the in-door dispensary of the Medical College hospital were also completed and a new Diphtheria Ward on the roof of the Medical College Hospital was in an advanced stage at the end of the year. The additions and alterations in the Isolation Block and the covered passage leading to the first floor of the same in this hospital were also completed. New storage tanks were fixed on the roof of the Medical College Hospital, Calcutta. A sum of Rs. 85,078 was spent up to the 31st March 1914 on the construction of a new lecture theatre, a dissecting room, a composite building consisting of a *post-mortem* room, dead-house and macerating room, and servants' quarters in the compound of the Campbell Hospital at Sealdah. A room for dressers and compounders and quarters for menials were built in the compound of the Sambhu Nath Pandit Hospital at Bhowanipur. The underground wiring of the new Nurses' quarters and the replacing of 30 regulators, 45 old-type fans and 15 fan points of the same in the Presidency General Hospital, Bhowanipur, were in progress. Quarters for the Sub-Assistant Surgeon attached to the Albert Victor Leper Asylum at Gobra were built. Additions and alterations to the European Lunatic Asylum at Bhowanipur were carried out. The work of providing a corrugated-iron roof to the Eden Sanitarium at Darjeeling was completed. The mortuary at Jalpaiguri was completed and metalling of the approach road commenced.

Registration.

420. The Registrar's office building at Alipore was extended and the existing rooms were converted into a record-room at a cost of Rs. 10,658. The sub-registry offices at Nandail, Dewanganj, Lahirihat, Birganj and Arambagh were completed. The sub-registry offices at Nabinagar, Begumganj

and Bera were in progress and a sub-registry office at Kathiadi and an extension of the *sadar* registration office at Dacca were started.

Miscellaneous.

421. Servants' quarters in the compound of the Animal Vaccine Depôt at No. 2 Convent Lane, Entally, were built and certain additions and alterations to the buildings were completed at a cost of Rs. 9,811. A sum of Rs. 30,003 was spent, up to the 31st March 1914, in raising the low portion of the compound of the Bengal Veterinary College at Belgachia and three tanks were also filled in at a cost of Rs. 11,185. A verandah was added to the new Dog Ward at Belgachia, and out-houses in connection with the same were constructed at a cost of Rs. 4,013. A new godown, dispensary, etc., also two isolation cattle sheds were nearly finished. The surface drains of the dissection room, serum house and *post-mortem* room of the said college were also remodelled. The residential "Chummery" building at Barisal was in progress. The additions and alterations to the Forest Officer's residence at Chittagong were completed. Electric installations in 22 residential buildings in the new Civil Station at Dacca were completed.

Public Works Department buildings.

422. The Public Works Department godown at Bankura was converted into a sub-Divisional office. The construction of a residence for the Executive Engineer at Barisal was commenced. The wiring and fitting for electric lights and fans in the combined offices of the Superintending and Executive Engineers at Dacca was completed. The Public Works Department godown, sub-Divisional office and quarters for the Sub-divisional Officer and Sub-Overseer at Darjeeling were commenced and half the work was done.

Contribution works.

423. The construction of Kanai Lal Seal's Dispensary, General Hospital, Howrah, and of an operation room for the same were completed.

Archæological works.

424. The preservation work in connection with the mosque of Shah Safi-ud-din at Pandua and the mosque at Kharaul in the Murshidabad district was carried out and thorough repairs were executed in the Sareswar Temple at Dihar near Vishnupur. Special repairs to the archæological buildings at Gour and Pandua were also taken in hand.

COMMUNICATIONS.

Burdwan.

425. The heavy floods of August 1913 damaged the Grand Trunk Road in miles 71 and 72 of the first section and miles 73, 74, 75, 76 and 77 of the second section. The damage was repaired and the road restored to its previous condition.

Owing to serious complaints having been received of the state of the roads in the Asansol sub-Division of the Burdwan district, the following provincial roads were taken over by this Department from the agency of the District Board of Burdwan to ensure their maintenance in a satisfactory condition :—

(1) The Grand Trunk Road in the Asansol sub-Division from miles 103 to 149.
(2) The Raniganj-Midnapore Road.
(3) The Lethuria Road.
(4) The Barakar-Purulia Road.

Darjeeling.

426. The work of increasing the width of the metalled portion of Matigara Hill Cart Road from the junction of the Darjeeling Hill Cart Road to the Matigara-Kurseong turning, which was commenced in the previous year, was completed.

The following works were completed during this year :—

(1) Improvements of the Calcutta Road from Darjeeling to Jore-bungalow,
(2) Remodelling certain drains and culverts on the Pankhabari and Diversions Roads, Kurseong, and
(3) The diversion of the Jungiguard Road from the 15th mile to 17½ mile.

The widening of the last three miles of the Teesta Valley Road made progress.

A project for metalling the Sukna-Adalpore Road was administratively approved and a detailed estimate amounting to Rs. 13,900 was sanctioned. The work will be taken up when funds are available.

Jalpaiguri. 427. In the Jalpaiguri Duars practically all the roads are at present unmetalled, only partly bridged, and in many instances quite unsuitable for the heavy and increasing cart-traffic which they have to carry. It was recognised that sufficient funds have not been provided in the past for the maintenance of efficient communications of this important district. It has therefore been decided to undertake a programme of road improvement during the next four or five years which should suffice to place road communication in the district in a thoroughly satisfactory condition.

With this object in view projects have up to date been sanctioned for the metalling of the following roads and the work was commenced during the year :—

(1) Banarhat-Chamurchi Road,
(2) Gairkatta-Binaguri Road,
(3) Chalsa-Laltiguri Road,
(4) Tondu Forest Road,
(5) Gairkatta-Dhupguri Road,
(6) Nagarkatta-Chengmari Road.
(7) Alipur Kumargram Road.

The construction of abutments for the Ghatia bridge on Chengmari-Nagarkatta Road and of an Inspection bungalow at Alipur-Duars was also commenced.

The surveys for new or improved alignments of (1) Nagarkatta-Chengmari, (2) Jainti-Rydak, (3) Dalgaon-Lankapara, (4) Hatipotta-Sumuktolla, and (5) Alipur-Kumargram roads were also in progress.

Dinajpur. 428. The work of metalling 4¾ miles of Hilli-Balurghat Road from the 8th mile post to the upper end of the existing metalling in the 13th mile was taken up.

The project for constructing a steel pile bridge over the Hilli river was administratively approved at an approximate cost of Rs. 28,000.

Dacca. 429. The improvement of the roads from Dacca to Aircha and from Faridpur to Jessore was under consideration by Government. Detailed surveys were sanctioned to assist in the preparation of complete projects.

Chittagong. 430. The improvement of the Strand Road at Chittagong, which was started in the previous year, made progress. The unmetalled portion of the road was raised and masonry wings and abutments were built for the Moheskhali bridge. The metalling was also partially completed.

Stone metal was collected for the improvement of the Agrabad Road at Chittagong.

The metalling of a portion of the Trunk Road from Dewanhat at Chittagong to the approach to the Pahartali railway station was completed.

A dâk bungalow was constructed at Noakhali and progress was made in the construction of a rest-house on the Raojan-Rangamati Road at Maniksory in the Chittagong Hill Tracts.

ARBORICULTURE.

Arboriculture. 431. Arboricultural operations along roads in charge of the Public Works Department were carried out as far as the funds available would permit.

MISCELLANEOUS PUBLIC IMPROVEMENTS.

Calcutta. 432. Quarters for Leadsmen Apprentices for the Bengal Pilot Service were constructed at Porabazar, Calcutta, at a cost of Rs. 63,776. A complete electric installation for lights and fans and a water-supply with electric pumps and pump-house were provided.

The grounds attached to Belvedere at Alipore were thrown open to the public.

In consequence of the failure of the licensees to perform their obligations the license granted in 1907 to Messrs. Killick, Nixon & Co. and John Fleming & Co. of Bombay for the supply of electric energy to the Hooghly river districts in Bengal, for the purpose of electric traction and general supply exclusive of lighting, was revoked.

Coalfields Electric License, 1909, granted by this Government to the Bengal Coalfields Power Company, Limited, for the supply of electric energy in certain portions of the Manbhum and Burdwan districts, was also revoked, so far as it applied to the district of Burdwan, owing to the failure of the licensees to perform the obligations imposed on them by the license.

Ambulance sheds were added to the Corporation cattle-sheds in Mirzapur Street and Lower Circular Road and at Alipore.

433. The work of filling in the tank in the compound of the new Police barracks at Howrah was commenced. **Howrah.**

434. The left bank of the Darkeswar river at Arambagh in the district of Hooghly was revetted at an expenditure of Rs. 5,380. **Hooghly.**

435. The bank of the Bhairab river in front of the residence of the Superintendent of Police at Khulna was protected. **Khulna.**

436. The Darjeeling Electric License, 1904, granted to the Municipality of Darjeeling for the supply of electricity in the town of Darjeeling and its neighbourhood, was revoked, and a fresh license was granted to enable the Municipality to supply electricity for all purposes to a more extended area, including Ghoom, Katapahar, Jalapahar and the Lebong Cantonments. **Darjeeling.**

The masonry drains of the Bryngwyn Jhora in the town of Darjeeling were remodelled.

437. The reclamation of the marshy land near the iron bridge over the Karla river at Jalpaiguri was commenced and a certain amount of work was done during the year. **Jalpaiguri.**

438. The electric lighting of the roads in the new Civil Station at Dacca was begun from the 1st September 1913, under an agreement with the Dacca Electric Supply Corporation. **Dacca.**

439. Damage was done to the wooden protective works along the river bank at Barisal. Some of the damaged spurs were replaced by "brick sausages." **Barisal.**

The improvement of five tanks in the Court compound at Barisal was completed.

440. The observations and surveys of the erosion of the banks of the river Megna in front of Noakhali, which had been commenced in 1911-12, were continued during the year. New cross sections of the river were taken. Erosion in front of Shahebghata continued at much the same rate as in previous years, but not over such an extended area. The cutting was more concentrated near Shahebghata and to the west. The *char* on the east was found to have advanced considerably, while the *char* in front of the town, between Shahebghata and Char Jabar, had risen a good deal, and extended further to the west. Although no definite pronouncement can be made, the results of the observations made point to the probablity that erosion will become less and less each year and that the channel now flowing past the Noakhali bank will cease to exist before long. **Noakhali.**

CONTRIBUTION WORKS.

441. The building of a corrugated-iron shed in the Kalimpong market place and the construction of a road from the site of the proposed wooden bridge to the new site of the Singbali bridge were completed. **Darjeeling.**

The following works were in progress :—

(1) Improvements in the water-supply of the Bazar and the Lower Homes at Kalimpong,

(2) Dismantling the existing bridge over the Chenga River, and re-erecting a portion of the bridge over Bone River on Road No. 32, and

(3) Providing a water-supply for the Sukiapukri Bazar.

Railways.

Administration.

442. None of the railways in this Province are entirely under the control of the Government of Bengal. The Government of India in the Railway Department (Railway Board) control the more important lines, while the following private lines of local importance are subject to a certain measure of control by the Government of Bengal :—

	Gauge. Ft.	In.	Miles.
(1) Darjeeling-Himalayan Railway ...	2	0	51·00
(2) Tarkeswar-Magra Railway	2	6	33·27
(3) Howrah-Amta Light Railway ...	2	0	43·87
(4) Howra-Sheakhala Light Railway ...	2	0	19·75
(5) Baraset-Basirhat Light Railway ...	2	6	51·12
(6) Jessore-Jhenidah Railway ...	2	6	36·80
			235·81

Mileage.

443. During the year 1913-14, 127·64 miles of new railway lines were opened to traffic as under :—

	Miles.
Standard gauge (5′ 6″).	
Barharwa-Azimganj-Katwa Railway—	
Jangipur Road to Katwa	65·20
Eastern Bengal State Railway—	
Dum-Dum Junction to Canal Junction ...	1·18
Metre gauge (3′ 3⅜″).	
Raiabhatkhawa-Dalsingpara Branch of the Eastern Bengal State Railway—	
Kalchini to Dalsingpara	10·18
2′ 6″ gauge.	
Jessore-Jhenidah Railway—	
Jessore to Jhenidah	28·90
Kaliganj to Kotchandpur	7·90
2′ 0″ gauge.	
Darjeeling-Himalayan Railway extensions—	
Panchanai to Matigara	2·16
Siliguri to Sevok	12·12
	127·64

With these additions the total mileage open on the 31st March 1914 was as follows :—

	Miles.
Standard gauge (5′ 6″)	1,301·40
Metre „ (3′ 3⅜″)	1,135·84
2′ 6″ „	156·43
2′ 0″ „	128·90
	2,722·57

Lines sanctioned and under construction.

444. The following lines were under construction or sanctioned for construction during the year :—

Standard gauge (5' 6").

	Single line.	Second, third, etc., as the case may be.
Eastern Bengal State Railway—		
New goods approach—		
Kankurgachi Road to north of Sealdah ...	...	0·76 (third and fourth lines).
Naihati to Halisahar		1·60 (third line).
Low level connection—		
Dum-Dum Junction to Canal Junction ...	1·66	1·6 (second line).
Poradaha to Bhairamara	...	11·79 (second line).
Poradaha to Jagati	...	4·10 (second line).
Sara to Santahar (this is an independent broad-gauge track alongside the existing 3' 3⅜" gauge line),	48·51	
Jadabpur to Baruipur	...	10·65 (second line).
Lower Ganges Bridge at Sara—		
Bhiramara to a point near Gopalpur ...	14·22	10·98 (second line).
Bengal-Nagpur Railway—		
Bankura to Bhojudih (only a portion of this line lies in the Province of Bengal).	...	51·25 (second line).
East Indian Railway—		
Burdwan to Kamarkundu	37·77	
Baidyabati to Bhadreswar	...	0·93 (third line).
Uttarpara to Lillooah	...	2·43 (third line).
Sara-Serajganj Railway—		
Ishardi to Serajganj	49·20	

Metre gauge 3' 3⅜".

Eastern Bengal State Railway—		
Teesta Junction to Lalmonirhat		7·25 (second line).
Assam-Bengal Railway—		
Bhairabbazar to Tangi	39·23	
Bengal-Duars Railway—		
Chalsa to Matelli	5·31	

2' 6" gauge.

Burdwan-Katwa Railway—		
Burdwan to Katwa	32·69	

2' 0" gauge.

Darjeeling-Himalayan Railway Extensions—		
Matigara to Kishenganj (only a portion of this line lies in Bengal).	66·50	
Sivoke to Teesta Bridge	17·38	
Howrah-Amta Light Railway—		
Autpur to Rajbulhat	3·50	

Surveys completed.

445. The following surveys were completed during the year—

By the East Indian Railway—

Burdwan-Kamarkundu Section of the Burdwan-Howrah Chord Railway, 5′ 6″ gauge, 38 miles.

By State Agency—

Calcutta Chord Railway—

(*i*) Kamarkundu on Burdwan-Howrah Chord Railway to Bally, 5′ 6″ gauge, 12 miles.

(*ii*) Bridge over the river Hooghly at Bally and approaches, 5′ 6″ gauge, 8 miles.

(*iii*) Eastern Bengal State Railway low level northern connection with Hooghly bridge, 5′ 6″ gauge, 2 miles.

By the Eastern Bengal State Railway—

Nabharan to Satkhira, 5′ 6″ gauge, 26 miles.
Nachoul *viâ* Rampur Boalia to Gopalpur, 5′ 6″ gauge, 57 miles.

By the Assam-Bengal Railway—

Bhairabbazar-Netrokona-Mymensingh Railway—

(*i*) Bhairabbazar to Gauripur with branches to Bajitpur and Kathiadi, 3′ 3⅜″ gauge, 70 miles.

(*ii*) Mymensingh to Netrokona *viâ* Gauripur and Shamganj, 3′ 3⅜″ gauge, 27 miles.

(*iii*) Shamganj to Bagmara, 3′ 3⅜″ gauge, 21 miles.

By Messrs. McLeod & Co.—

Bankura-Damodar River Railway—

Bankura to Raina, 2′ 6″ gauge, 61 miles.

Burdwan-Katwa Railway—

Burdwan to Katwa, 2′ 6″ gauge, 32·69 miles.

By Messrs. Martin & Co.—

Baraset-Basirhat Light Railway Extension—

Patipukur to Belgachia, 2′ 6″ gauge, 1 mile.

Contai Road-Contai Railway—

Contai Road to Contai, 2′ 6″ gauge, 35 miles.

Surveys sanctioned.

446. Authority was given to undertake the following surveys—

To the Eastern Bengal State Railway—

Birnagar to Santipur and on to the eastern bank of the Hooghly if necessary, 5′ 6″ gauge, a distance of about 10 miles.

Purnea and Dinajpur Districts Railway—

A reconnaissance survey was sanctioned of the country lying between the Barsoi-Kissenganj Branch and the Parbatipur-Siliguri line and that between the Forbesganj Branch and the Darjeeling-Himalayan Railway.

To the Darjeeling-Himalayan Railway Extension Co.—

Naxalbari to Mirik *viâ* Panighatta and Namsu by way of the Balasun valley, 2′ 0″ gauge.

To the Assam-Bengal Railway Co.—

Extension of the Bhairabbazar-Netrokona-Mymensingh Railway to Siju—

Bagmara to Siju, 3′ 3⅜″ gauge, 21 miles.

To the Bengal Duars Railway Co.—

Patgram-Mathabhanga and Patgram-Mekliganj Railway.
Patgram to Mathabhanga and Patgram to Mekliganj, 3′ 3⅜″ gauge, 20 miles.

Lines opened during the year.

447. The following are some of the more important lines which have been opened during the year :—

The Barharwa-Azimganj-Katwa Extension of the Hooghly-Katwa Railway.

(1) This line which is 100 miles in length was opened throughout for traffic on the 1st May 1913. It runs through the country lying between the right bank of the Ganges and the left bank of the Bhagirathi River. This country is densely populated and rich in agricultural products, the chief export being rice.

The Singhjani-Fulchari Extension of the Eastern Bengal State Railway.

(2) This short metre gauge extension (26 miles only) was opened to passenger traffic on the 1st November 1913. It had been opened for goods traffic more than a year previously. The project included the provision of a fully equipped wagon-ferry between Fulchari and Bahadurabad and the traffic carried by it has exceeded all expectations and has already necessitated the provision of further traffic facilities.

The Rajabhatkhawa-Dalsingpara Extension of the Eastern Bengal State Railway.

(3) The line was sanctioned for construction in October 1911, but owing to various unavoidable causes the progress in construction was slow. The line was not opened till the 14th January 1914. This line serves a number of tea gardens and will encourage further development in this direction in an area in which population is rapidly increasing.

Important works of construction.

448. The following important works were in progress during the year:—

Burdwan-Howrah Chord.

The construction of this line was confined to the length between Burdwan and Kamarkundu, a station on the Tarkeswar Branch Railway.

Lower Ganges Bridge.

Work on the Lower Ganges Bridge proceeded rapidly during the year, only seven spans remaining to be erected at the end of the period under review.

Bhairabbazar-Tangi Extension of the Assam-Bengal Railway.

This extension, which connects the Assam-Bengal Railway with the Dacca Section of the Eastern Bengal State Railway, was begun in 1910-11 and was nearly completed at the end of the year. The line is considered of great importance to the Port of Chittagong, as it will connect the Eastern Bengal districts, which are rich in agricultural products, with the Port of Chittagong.

Railways financed by private enterprise.

449. During the period under review concessions have been granted under the rebate terms of 1913 to Messrs. Gillanders, Arbuthnot & Co. and Killick, Nixon & Co. for the construction of the Sara-Serajganj Railway.

Messrs. McLeod & Co. obtained concessions under the guarantee terms of 1913 for the construction of (1) the Burdwan-Katwa Railway, and (2) the Bankura-Damodar River Railway.

Krishnagar-Jelinghi Light Railway.

Light Railway projects.

450. The District Board of Nadia entered into negotiations with Mr. W. A. Radice for the construction of this line on a 2′ 6″ gauge.

Baraset-Basirhat Light Railway Extension.

An application under the Bengal Tramways Act, III of 1883, was received from Messrs. Martin & Co. of Calcutta for the construction of an extension of the Baraset-Basirhat Light Railway from the present station of that line at Patipukur to the Belgachia Tramway terminus, and was under consideration by this Government. The extension has since been opened.

Contai Road-Contai Light Railway.

Messrs. Martin & Co. of Calcutta have submitted an application to the Railway Board under the Indian Railways Act, IX of 1890, for the construction of a light railway on the 2′ 6″ gauge from Contai Road station to Contai under guarantee by the District Board of Midnapore. The question as to the ability of the District Board to bear the proposed guarantee in case the railway proved unremunerative was under the consideration of this Government. There is now an alternative proposal for a broad gauge line, to be worked by the Bengal-Nagpur Railway.

Ishardi Sadhuganj Light Railway.

The proposal of Messrs. Martin & Co. of Calcutta to construct a light railway on the 2′ 6″ gauge from Ishardi to Sadhuganj *viâ* Pabna and Bera under guarantee by the District Board of Pabna was dropped, as the Railway Board considered that the area which would be traversed by the railway might with greater advantage be opened by a branch on the 5′ 6″ gauge of the Sara-Serajganj Railway. The Railway Board have since issued orders for the survey of a line of railway on the standard gauge to open out the portion of the Pabna district lying between Ishardi and Sadhuganj.

Bengal Provincial Railwdy Extension.

The Government of Bengal recommended to the Railway Board the application of the Bengal Provincial Railway Company, Limited, for a loan of 2½ lakhs to finance the scheme for an extension of the line from Dasghara to Jamalpurganj. As the Railway Board could not see their way to grant the loan asked for, the Company were told to submit a fresh application for the construction of the line under the Government of India's Branch Line terms. The revised application of the Company, which met with the support of this Government, was under the consideration of the Railway Board.

Aerial ropeways.

451. A few proposals for the construction of aerial ropeways in mountainous tracts having been received by the Government of Bengal, it was considered necessary to take up the question of legislation for the control of ropeways to which neither the Indian Railway Act nor the Tramways Act applies. A committee was accordingly appointed to consider a draft bill, which was drawn up for the purpose, and to submit a report to Government. In the meantime the Government of India in the Railway Department (Railway Board) took up the question, and it was decided not to proceed further with the bill in view of the probability of legislation on the subject being undertaken by the Imperial Government.

Canals—Irrigation and Navigation.

[Administration Report of Irrigation works for the year 1913-14. Statistics of British India, Part III.—Commercial Services.]

Capital and Revenue Accounts.

452. The transactions of the Irrigation Department, Bengal, for the year 1913-14 are exhibited in the following statement so far as they relate to works of irrigation and navigation :—

CAPITAL ACCOUNT.

HEADS.	Amount of construction estimate.	Expenditure during 1913-14.	Expenditure to end of 1913-14.	Balance for expenditure from 1st April 1914.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Major Irrigation Works.				
Direct charges ...	1,08,59,500	180	1,08,59,937	- 437
Indirect charges ...	2,48,603	4	2,48,678	- 75
Total ...	1,11,08,103	184	1,11,08,615	- 512
Minor Works and Navigation.				
Direct charges ...	1,19,84,729	2,08,783	1,16,19,846	3,64,883
Indirect charges ...	1,35,727	7,049	1,79,603	- 43,876
Total ...	1,21,20,456	2,15,832	1,17,99,449	3,21,007

REVENUE ACCOUNTS.

HEADS.	Receipts.	WORKING EXPENSES.			Net Revenue.
		Direct.	Indirect.	Total.	
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Major Irrigation Works.	2,46,372	2,97,581	11,571	3,09,152	(—) 62,780
Minor Works and Navigation:					
Works for which capital and revenue accounts are kept.	4,65,342	5,06,462	12,691	5,19,153	(—) 53,811
Works for which only revenue accounts are kept.	29,072	1,29,626	10,732	1,40,358	(—)1,11,286
Works for which neither capital nor revenue accounts are kept.	32,765	39,799*	...	39,799	(—) 7,034

* Exclusive of Rs. 1,57,773 spent chiefly on river improvement works—Ganges, Dhaleswari and Buriganga rivers.

Irrigation.

453. The following statement shows the areas irrigated during the year as compared with the average of the triennial period ending March 1913 :—

	Midnapore Canal (Major Works).			Eden Canal (Minor Works).		
	Kharif, inclusive of hot weather.	Rabi.	Total.	Kharif, inclusive of hot weather.	Rabi.	Total.
	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.
Average of the triennium ending March 1913.	78,624	...	78,624	24,460	365	24,825
For 1913-14	77,592	2,587	80,179	23,468	162	23,630

Lengths of canals.

454. The following statement shows the lengths of canals and distributaries which were in operation during the year 1913-14. These figures are identical with those reported in 1912-13 :—

	Midnapore Canal. Miles.	Eden Canal. Miles.
Main canals, irrigation	53	27½
Branch canals, ditto	16·75	
Distributaries of above	254·74	17⅜
Navigable channels	69·75	...

Navigation.

455. The following statement shows the traffic on the navigable canals during the year 1913-14 as compared with the average of the triennium ending March 1913 :—

	Midnapore Canal.		Hijili Tidal Canal.		Calcutta and Eastern Canals.		Madaripur Bil Route.		Nadia Rivers.	
	Average of the triennium ending March 1913.	For the year 1913-14.	Average of the triennium ending March 1913.	For the year 1913-14.	Average of the triennium ending March 1913.	For the year 1913-14.	Average of the triennium ending March 1913.	For the year 1913-14.	Average of the triennium ending March 1913.	For the year 1913-14.
Length of canal open Miles	69½	69½	29	29	1,115	1,115	21	1	511	492½
Receipts ... ... Rs.	40,948	40,471	55,080	35,287	3,94,354	3,52,403	93,479	84,925	32,988	24,508
Tonnage of boats by canal measurement ... Tons.	396,758	426,489	218,404	144,090	1,096,280	946,826	244,710	186,203	176,149	128,434
Estimated weight of cargo ,,	88,897	88,740	85,649	31,987	707,448	618,585	231,872	218,975	126,389	95,617
Estimated value of goods Rs.	77,76,076	84,91,113	65,22,046	40,79,570	6,81,20,278	6,93,25,813	3,24,99,588	3,62,00,685	1,99,88,014	1,52,09,610
Estimated value of rafts ,,	14,989	14,555	20,627	6,934	63,248	44,595	11,368	4,480	67,127	41,630

Discharge of rivers.

456. In accordance with the instructions of the Government of India the discharges of certain streams as shown below were observed during the year under review :—

South-Western Circle.

The observed discharges of the Damodar river at the places indicated and of the Ajai river at Satkahonia were :—

Damodar River.

Date.	Discharges in cusecs at—			
	Jujuty.	Tarwana.	Serangpur.	Jamalpur.
22nd May 1913	2,080	...	...	...
27th November ,, ...	...	...	...	2,687
10th December ,, ...	...	...	2,319	...
2nd ,, ,, ...	...	1,368	...	...
17th ,, ,, ...	...	...	...	2,688
21st ,, ,, ...	1,361	...	...	...
5th January 1914	...	...	...	580
19th ,, ,, ...	836	...	...	...
1st February ,, ...	...	455	412	380
1st March ,, ...	...	...	...	549
2nd ,, ,, ...	...	660	...	...
3rd ,, ,, ...	...	...	482	...
26th ,, ,, ...	...	...	...	37
27th ,, ,, ...	...	...	479	...
30th ,, ,, ...	...	200	...	...

AJAI RIVER.

Date		Locality.	Discharge (taken by means of velocity rods) cubic ft.—
13th April	1913 ...	Satkahonia	... 172
22nd May	„ ...	Ditto	... 2,160
22nd June	„ ...	Ditto	... 2,543
19th July	„ ...	Ditto	... 1,542
22nd August	„ ...	Ditto	... 5,746
22nd November	„ ...	Ditto	... 3,068
22nd December	„ ...	Ditto	... 366
26th January	1914 ...	Ditto	... 192
1st February	„ ...	Ditto	... 200
27th „	„ ...	Ditto	... 1,109
30th March	„ ...	Ditto	... 143

CENTRAL CIRCLE.

NAME OF RIVER.	SEPTEMBER 1913—				OCTOBER 1913—			
	MAXIMUM DISCHARGE.		MINIMUM DISCHARGE.		MAXIMUM DISCHARGE.		MINIMUM DISCHARGE.	
	Date.	Quantity.	Date.	Quantity.	Date.	Quantity.	Date.	Quantity.
District Birbhum—								
Mour	18th	61,511	28th	997	16th	17,948	14th	312
Bansloe	29th	6,060	27th	429	15th	7.311	31st	304
Brahmini	19th	17,331	28th	743	16th	19,724	31st	461

Classification of Irrigation and Navigation works.

457. The classification of works dealt with in this review is as follows :—

Account—"*49—Major works.*"—In these are included the Midnapore and Hijili Tidal canals. The latter is used for navigation only, while the former provides for both irrigation and navigation. The original capital account of these canals has been closed, and all present Capital outlay is charged against head "43—Minor works and Navigation." The revenue account is shown under "42—Major works working expenses."

Account—"*43—Minor works and Navigation.*"—(*i*) The works for which capital and revenue accounts are kept include the Calcutta and Eastern canals, the Madaripur Bil Route and a portion of the Orissa Coast canal. These are all for navigation. Under this is also included the Utterbhag Lock, now under construction in connection with the Magra Hât Drainage Scheme, which, when completed, will be for navigation only. (*ii*) The works for which only revenue accounts are kept are the Nadia Rivers and the Gaighata and Baxi Khal, and they are used for navigation only. Under (*ii*) is also included the Magra Hât Drainage Scheme in the 24-Parganas district, which is being carried out under the provisions of the Bengal Sanitary Drainage Act VIII of 1895. The work is practically completed. (*iii*) The works for which neither capital nor revenue accounts are kept include (*a*) the Eden Canal, which is used partly for irrigation and partly to afford a supply of water for drinking and sanitation, and (*b*) training works carried on in the rivers Ganges, Bhagirathi, Gorai, Dhaleswari and Buriganga.

The transactions of the year for each of the above works are briefly stated in the following summary, which is given for convenience by circles of superintendence.

SOUTH-WESTERN CIRCLE.

MAJOR IRRIGATION WORKS.

Midnapore Canal—Capital Account

458. A sum of Rs. 180 (direct charges) was expended during the year in completing the regulator at Hasimpur (4th mile of Distributary No. 3) which was commenced in the previous year. The total capital outlay for direct charges to the end of the year stands at Rs. 83,09,132.

Flood.

459. The highest flood in the Cossye river during the year was on the 9th August 1913, when the gauge at Mohonpur read 88·50 against the highest recorded flood-level of 94·50 on the 2nd September 1907.

Rainfall.

460. The rainfall at Midnapore during the year was 65·16 inches against 59·51 inches of the previous year. It was sufficient, and consequently the demand for canal water during the *kharif* season was much less than that of the previous year.

Irrigation.

461. The area irrigated from the canal was 80,179 acres, of which 77,592 acres were under *kharif* crops and 2,587 acres under *boro* irrigation. The area irrigated during 1912-13 was 80,958 acres of *kharif* crops.

The cash realisation on account of water-rates during the year was Rs. 1,45,656 against a total demand of Rs. 1,52,670. A sum of Rs. 6,883 had to be remitted for failure of *kharif* crops due to excessive rainfall, and the balance unrealised at the end of the year was Rs. 131. The rate for long-term leases was raised from Re. 1-8 to Rs. 2 per acre with effect from the 1st April 1905. The question of further enhancing the rate has been held in abeyance till 1916-17.

Navigation.

462. The navigation receipts during the year (Rs. 40,471) remained practically the same as in the previous year (Rs. 40,662). The traffic was normal. No. 1 Distributary of the canal remained closed to traffic from the 1st to 30th April 1913 for silt clearance.

Financial results.

463. The gross revenue and working expenses (direct and indirect) of the Midnapore Canal amounted to Rs. 2,09,967 and Rs. 1,86,405, respectively, as against Rs. 2,20,412 and Rs. 2,16,874 in the preceding year. The decrease in gross receipts was under "Water rates" and was due to a falling off in the area irrigated during the *kharif* season, also to a remission of Rs. 6,883 as already explained. The decrease in working expenses was due to the fact that no heavy repairs were necessary during the year, and the allocation of the establishment charges against the canal was less than in the previous year.

Hijili Tidal Canal.

464. There was no outlay chargeable to the capital account of the canal during the year. The total capital outlay (direct charges) to the end of the year amounted to Rs. 25,50,805. The gross revenue and working expenses (direct and indirect) of the canal amounted to Rs. 36,405 and Rs. 1,22,747, respectively, as against Rs. 52,800 and Rs. 29,513 in 1912-13. The result was a net loss of Rs. 86,342 against a profit of Rs. 23,287 in the preceding year. The decrease in "Gross receipts" was due to the fact that the traffic on the canal during the year was abnormally low owing to the closure of Range II for silt clearance from the 15th January 1914 to the end of the year, also on account of the severe floods which damaged large areas of crops. Since the traffic is mostly local, the effect on the receipts was most marked. The increase in working expenses was on account of heavy expenditure on silt clearance of the Terapakhia Supply Channel and Range II of the canal, on which Rs. 68,614 was spent during the year besides the usual maintenance charges.

Minor Works and Navigation.

Calcutta and Eastern Canals Capital account.

465. There was a net credit of Rs. 77,523 to the capital account chiefly on account of the hire of the dredger "Foyers." Some outlay was incurred during the year in connection with the work of demarcation of the Government land along Tolly's *Nala* from Hastings Bridge to Samukpota. An expenditure of Rs. 20,218 (direct charges) was also incurred during the year in connection with the proposed Grand Trunk Canal. The total capital outlay (direct charges) to the end of the year now stands at Rs. 82,24,695.

Navigation Receipts.

466. The receipts from navigation tolls amounted to Rs. 3,52,403 as compared with Rs. 4,00,833 in the preceding year. The gross receipts and working expenses (direct and indirect) amounted to Rs. 3,76,010 and Rs. 4,00,177, respectively, as against Rs. 4,21,343 and Rs. 4,63,224 in 1912-13, the result being a deficit of Rs. 24,167 against a similar deficit of Rs. 41,881 in the preceding year. The decrease in receipts was chiefly due to fluctuation of traffic caused by the partial failure of the jute crop. The decrease in working expenses was chiefly under "Establishment" and was due to the fact that

during the year 1912-13, the excess charge under establishment of the Madaripur Bil Route, Capital account, of the year 1911-12 was debited to the revenue account of these canals. The improvement of the Angeria Creek was taken in hand during the year.

Madaripur Bil Route.

467. The expenditure (direct charges) debitable to the Capital account of the Madaripur Bil Route project was Rs. 2,08,672 for works only. This was incurred on (1) improvement of the Lower Kumar river at the eastern entrance of the Bil by the dredger "Foyers", (2) excavation of boat docks, and (3) easing off the four bends in the Lower Kumar river and other works in connection with the scheme. The total Capital outlay (direct charges) to the end of 1913-14 amounted to Rs. 32,24,535 against the sanctioned estimate of Rs. 34,32,491 for the project. The receipts and working expenses (direct and indirect) during the year were respectively Rs. 89,332 and Rs. 1,18,976 as against Rs. 1,03,093 and Rs. 93,969 in the year 1912-13. The decrease in receipts was due to the silting up of the western approaches in the rains, which prevented steamers from using the route as usual. The increase in working expenses was on account of heavy expenditure incurred in dredging (1) the Manikdah entrance and Loop Channels, and (2) the sidings and shallow places in the Bil Route for facilitating the passage of steamers. The maundage of boats and steamers was 5,912,325 against 11,225,338 of the previous year.

Gaighata and Baxikhal.

468. The receipts and working expenses (direct and indirect) for the year were Rs. 4,244 and Rs. 298, respectively, as against Rs. 3,675 and Rs. 8,956 in the previous year. The *khal* has been leased out for three years from 1913-14 at Rs. 4,025 per annum.

Eden Canal.

469. The receipts and working expenses were Rs. 32,765 and Rs. 39,799, respectively, as against Rs. 36,489 and Rs. 20,642 in the year 1912-13. The decrease in receipts was due to the limitation of the area under long lease, on account of the uncertainty of the supply of water. To remedy this a new supply channel is being excavated at Jhanpur on which Rs. 4,511 were spent during the year. It is proposed also to build a new supply sluice and stop dam across the new intake. With the completion of the new head works it is expected that irrigation will be considerably increased. The canal was seriously breached in the first mile during the flood of August 1913, but as repairs were rapidly executed the crops did not suffer for want of water. This accounts chiefly for the increase in working expenses during the year.

Utterbhag Lock.

470. A lock on the Peali river is being constructed at Utterbhag to give boats coming from the Sundarbans and eastern rivers access to the channels of the Magra Hât Drainage Scheme. The work is still in progress, and a sum of Rs. 31,383 (direct charges) was spent upon it during the year.

CENTRAL CIRCLE.

Minor Works and Navigation.

Nadia Rivers.

471. The approximate length of the channels comprised in the Nadia Rivers are as detailed below :—

	Miles.
Faracca channel from the Ganges to Biswanathpur ...	25
Bhagirathi river from Biswanathpur-Bhagirathi entrance to Nadia	136
Bhairab-Jalangi from entrance to Nadia	163½
Mathabhanga from entrance to junction with the Hooghly	136
Hooghly from Nadia to Mathabhanga junction	32
	492½

The decrease in the length of the Bhagirathi (8 miles) is due to the change in the course of the river near Patuli station on the East Indian Railway between Agradwip and Narayanpur.

No capital account is kept. The receipts and working expenses (direct and indirect) were Rs. 24,828 and Rs. 1,40,060, respectively, as against Rs. 29,984 and Rs. 1,47,758 in the preceding year. The decrease in receipts was due to a falling off in the number of steamers and flats plying on the river on account of extensions of railway lines on both sides of the Bhagirathi. The number of boats using these rivers during the year was 13,113 as against 16,100 in the previous year.

A brief description of the rivers comprised in the Nadia rivers system is given below.

Bhagirathi River.

472. The Bhagirathi is 161 miles long from the Faracca entrance to Nadia, the portion below Nadia to the mouth of the river Mathabhanga being known as the Hooghly. The first 25 miles consist of a *sota*-of the Ganges called Faracca channel; the next 73 miles, from below Biswanathpur entrance to Dadpur, form the Upper Bhagirathi, and the remaining 73 miles, down to Nadia, the Lower Bhagirathi. The lower Bhagirathi is again divided into two reaches, namely (1) the Upper Reach from Dadpur to Katwa, and (2) the Lower Reach from Katwa to Nadia. The Upper Bhagirathi was navigable for boats up to December 1913, the steamer service being maintained throughout until the 15th October 1913 and between Azimganj and Berhampur until the 31st October 1913. The lower Bhagirathi resumed its old channel of 95 years ago in November 1913, the clay bar at the mouth of the old river bed near Agradwip having given way after the second rise of the Babla and the Ajai. There was no complete stoppage of boat traffic between Katwa and Nadia. The steamer services from Calcutta to Katwa commenced from the 12th June 1913 and from Katwa to Jiaganj from the 15th June and stopped from the 11th November 1913.

The number and length of shoals trained were 37 and 122,900 feet against 44 and 108,300 feet, respectively, of the previous year.

The minimum depths of the river at the end of March were :—

Reach of River.	Least depth of water sounding.						Width of channel.
	1912.		1913.		1914.		
	Ft.	In.	Ft.	In.	Ft.	In.	
Entrance from Ganges ...	1	3	1	6	0	8	More than 25 feet.
Thence to Garia	1	0	1	3	1	0	
Garia to Jangipur ...	1	0	1	3	0	6	
Jangipur to Berhampur ...	1	3	1	0	1	0	
Berhampur to Katwa ...	1	6	1	3	1	0	
Katwa to Nadia	2	3	1	6	1	9	

Bhairab-Jalangi River.

473. The Bhairab-Jalangi river is divided into three different parts, viz.—

(1) Bhairab from entrance to Mukhtearpur.
(2) Upper Jalangi from Mukhtearpur to Gopinathpur.
(3) Lower Jalangi from Gopinathpur to Nadia.

The river was opened for through navigation in June and continued open till the end of December 1913. There were altogether 42 shoals as against 43 of the last year. Of these shoals, 35 were trained.

Mathabhanga River.

474. The Mathabhanga bifurcates from the Ganges at a place about 5 miles above the village of Jalangi and falls into the Hooghly below Chakdah. The portion of the river from the entrance to Munshiganj is called the Upper Mathabhanga and that from Munshiganj down to Hooghly junction the Lower Mathabhanga. The river was opened for through traffic in June 1913 and continued open till the end of January 1914, but intermediate traffic was maintained throughout the year. The number and length of shoals trained were 6 and 7,050 feet against 10 and 9,800 feet length of the previous year. No training works are necessary for that

portion of the Lower Mathabanga which is under tidal influence from the Hooghly.

Ganges Training Works between Digha and Damukdia.

475. In the year 1913-14 Government again decided to continue the Ganges Training Works between Digha and Damukdia, and a steamer was chartered from the Indian General Navigation and Railway Company for the use of the Public Works Department officers. The number of shoals trained was 20, of which 5 were in Bengal and 15 in the Province of Bihar and Orissa against 1 and 15, respectively, in the previous year. The cost to Government during the year was Rs. 38,174 against Rs. 25,821 in the preceding year. It has been decided that the entire cost of these Training Works for the three years 1912-15 will be borne by this Government, and that the Government of Bihar and Orissa will arrange to carry out the training works within that Province, that is, from Digha to Rajmahal, from the 1st April 1915.

Dredging the entrance of the Bhagirathi from the Ganges.

476. For some years dredging operations have been conducted at the mouth of the Bhagirathi river at its offtake from the Ganges, where it opens out from a loop of the Ganges known as the Faracca channel. This loop commences at Faracca and rejoins the Ganges about 4 miles below the offtake of the Bhagirathi. A shoal about 2½ miles long with two intermediate deep pools has formed at the entrance of the Bhagirathi; this shoal is known as the Biswanathpur shoal. and the object of the training works yearly undertaken is to scour this shoal and so to admit as large a volume of water as possible into the Bhagirathi. Bandalling and scraping operations were carried out, and dredging was done for 18 days during the year. These operations were not, however, very successful owing to several adverse circumstances. The total expenditure incurred was Rs. 9,300 during the season against Rs. 9,780 during the previous year.

Dredging the Gorai entrance.

477. No dredging was needed at the Gorai River entrance from the Ganges as its condition was good during the year.

NORTHERN CIRCLE.

Training Works on Ganges below Rampur-Boalia.

478. For some years training works were carried out on the river Ganges at Rampur-Boalia by the India General Navigation and Railway Company and the River Steam Navigation Company, Limited, with the help of a subsidy of Rs. 5,000 from Government. During the year 1913-14 the steamer companies did not take up the work and, as the training works improve navigation as well as the sanitary conditions and the water-supply of the town, Government decided to take up the work. As the state of the river did not allow of dredging work, the middle channel of the Ganges was trained by means of bandalling at an estimated cost of Rs. 6,698. Out of this the District Board of Rajshahi contributed Rs. 1,000.

EASTERN CIRCLE.

Training Works on Buriganga and Dhaleswari rivers.

479. The work of improving the Dhaleswari and Buriganga rivers for navigation and for the water-supply of the town of Dacca was carried out during the year, Rs. 35,000 being spent on dredging and Rs. 30,900 on bandalling the various shoals.

General—Floods.

480. The year under review was specially noticeable owing to the several high floods that occurred in the Midnapore, Hooghly and Howrah districts. These were as follows :—

(*a*) The Cossye was in flood on the 9th August 1913; although this was not so severe as that of 1907, there were several breaches in the Takavi embankments.

(*b*) Heavy rainfall between the 22nd and 28th July, and sea flood on the 24th made the rivers Haldi, Rupnarayan and Rasulpur rise abnormally and caused several breaches in the Vishnupur *zamindari* and Amarshi embankments, Udbadal and Argowal circuits. From 20 to 60 per cent. of the houses over a total area of 170 square miles were destroyed, but the damage to crops was small.

(*c*) The Damodar was in flood six times, the highest flood occurring on the 8th August 1913; this made numerous breaches in both the right and left embankments.

(*d*) The Ajai had four floods: The highest occurred on the 9th August 1913, and caused four breaches in the embankments. Every attempt was made to dispose of the surplus water and fill up breaches, and measures for mitigation of the floods are under consideration.

Embankments and Drainage.

[The Embankment and Drainage Reports for the year 1913-14.]

Expenditure.

481. The expenditure during the year on embankments was Rs. 7,41,984 and on drainage works Rs. 1,51,596.

Length of embankments.

482. The total length of embankments of all classes maintained by Government is 1,359 miles and 2,681 feet. These embankments protect an area of 3,524,535 acres.

Floods and breaches.

483. Unusually high floods occurred in the rivers of the Midnapore, Hooghly, Howrah and Burdwan districts. These floods caused several breaches in the embankments in the districts.

Surveys.

484. A survey was made of the spill area to the west of the Damodar river between the Baxi *khal* and the Arambagh-Champadanga road. A special survey was made in connection with the investigation for the improvement of the drainage of the whole tract which suffered from the floods of August 1913 in the Contai and Etamagra Sub-Divisions.

Original work.

485. The outlay during the year on original work amounted to Rs. 32,936. This was expended chiefly on the re-excavation of the Kausiki Channel and the construction of the Bonar *khal* sluice in the Government Estate at Port Canning and in connection with the survey of the spill area west of the Damodar river.

Ordinary repairs.

486. The expenditure during the year on ordinary repairs was Rs. 1,80,946 as against Rs. 3,21,837 in the year 1912-13.

Works undertaken under the provisions of The Bengal Drainage Act VI of 1880 and the Bengal Sanitary Drainage Act VIII of 1895.

487. The Dankuni, Howrah, Rajapore and Burrojolla drainage works were maintained at a cost of Rs. 25,597 against the average amount of Rs. 11,300 fixed for their maintenance. The high cost of maintenance was due to silt clearance of the Bally *khal*, which alone cost Rs. 19,379 during the year.

The Magra Hât Drainage scheme in the 24-Parganas district is the only work that has as yet been carried out under the Bengal Sanitary Drainage Act. The estimated cost of the work amounts to Rs. 20,73,791 and the expenditure to the end of the year amounted to Rs. 20,47,449, including Rs. 53,410 expended during the year. This scheme provides for navigation as well as drainage; and navigation rules were made and a schedule of tolls was fixed with effect from the 1st May 1914.

Works under the Bengal Embankment Act II of 1882.

488. The Argowal Drainage project, which provides for the drainage of 12,140 acres of low-lying land in the Contai Sub-Division of Midnapore was practically completed. This Circuit embankment was breached in several places in the 16th, 17th, 18th and 20th miles, but the breaches were promptly closed. A large number of sluices in Schedule D embankments were maintained at the cost of estates benefited.

Drainage works carried out at the cost of Government but not under the provisions of any Act.

489. The total expenditure to the end of the year on the Bagjolla Drainage scheme with its outfall into the Kristopur Canal was Rs. 79,799 against the sanctioned estimate for Rs. 1,28,439.

CHAPTER V.—REVENUE AND FINANCE.

A.—Gross Revenue.

Gross Revenue.

490. The following statement shows the gross revenue (*i.e.*, the total of Imperial and Provincial Revenues) for 1913-14 as compared with that of 1912-13 :—

[The figures are in thousands.]

Receipts.	1912-13.			1913-14.		
	Imperial.	Provincial.	Total.	Imperial.	Provincial.	Total.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Principal Heads of Revenue—						
I.—Land Revenue { Proper ...	1,19,23	1,60,64	2,79,87	1,22,19	1,58,00	2,80,19
I.—Land Revenue { Adjustment	−1,46,74	+1,46,74	...	−57,53	+57,53	...
II.—Opium	5,04,56	...	5,04,56	1,97,84	...	1,97,84
III.—Salt	1,18,85	...	1,18,85	1,30,42	...	1,30,42
IV.—Stamp	1,03,72	1,03,72	2,07,44	1,09,55	1,09,55	2,19,10
V.—Excise	...	1,37,59	1,37,59	..	1,53,89	1,53,89
VI.—Provincial Rates ...	...	32,02	32,02	...	1,31	1,31
VII.—Customs	3,19,51	...	3,19,51	3,48,60	...	3,48,60
VIII.—Assessed Taxes ...	27,76	27,76	55,52	33,19	33,19	66,38
IX.—Forests	...	16,01	16,01	...	16,16	16,16
X.—Registration	...	18,23	18,23	...	20,16	20,16
XI.—Tributes	68	...	68	68	...	68
Total ...	10,47,57	6,42,71	16,90,28	8,84,94	5,49,79	14,34,73
XII.—Interest	12,11	5,01	17,12	11,95	4,30	16,25
Receipts by Civil Departments—						
XVI.—Law and Justice—						
A. Courts of Law ...	...	8,15	8,15	...	8,43	8,43
B. Jails	...	7,03	7,03	...	6,58	6,58
XVII.—Police	...	2,39	2,39	...	1,57	1,57
XVIII.—Ports and Pilotage ...	...	17,52	17,52	...	16,76	16,76
XIX.—Education	...	7,78	7,78	...	8,11	8,11
XX.—Medical	...	4,27	4,27	...	4,20	4,20
XXI.—Scientific and other Minor Departments.	...	2,18	2,18	...	2,78	2,78
Total ...	...	49,32	49,32	...	48,43	48,43
Miscellaneous—						
XXII.—Receipts in aid of Superannuation.	1,81	48	2,29	1,80	39	2,19
XXIII.—Stationery and Printing ...	1	1,20	1,21	1	1,38	1,39
XXV.—Miscellaneous	38	7,72	8,10	46	7,48	7,94
Total ...	2,20	9,40	11,60	2,27	9,25	11,52
Irrigation—						
XXIX.—Major works (direct receipts)	1,37	1,37	2,74	1,23	1,23	2,46
XXX.—Minor works and navigation—						
By Public Works Department	3,20	3,20	6,40	2,83	2,83	5,86
„ Civil Department ...	25	25	50	25	24	29
Total ...	4,82	4,82	9,64	4,31	4,30	8,61
Buildings and Roads—						
XXXI.—Civil works—						
By Public Works Department	65	3,85	4,50	73	442	5,15
„ Civil Department ...	...	1,43	1,43	...	1,66	1,66
Total ...	65	5,28	5,93	73	6,08	6,81
Grand Total ...	10,67,35	7,16,54	17,83,89	9,04,20	6,22,15	15,26,35

The chief variations are explained in the sections on Imperial and Provincial Finance.

B.—Imperial Revenue and Finance.

Receipts.

491. The following statement shows the Imperial receipts in 1913-14 as compared with those of 1912-13 :—

Major Heads.	1912-13.	1913-14.	Increase.	Decrease.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
I.—Land Revenue (Proper) ...	1,19,23,137	1,22,19,388	2,96,256	...
Ditto (Adjustments) ...	—1,46,73,885	—57,52,800	...	—89,21,085
II.—Opium	5,04,56,391	1,97,84,323	...	3,06,72,068
III.—Salt	1,18,85,280	1,30,41,435	11,56,155	...
IV.—Stamps	1,03,71,926	1,09,55,416	5,83,490	...
VII.—Customs	3,19,50,723	3,48,60,241	29,09,518	...
VIII.—Assessed Taxes	27,75,826	33,18,958	5,43,132	...
XI.—Tributes	67,701	67,701	...	...
XII.—Interest	12,10,884	11,94,690	...	16,194
XXII.—Receipts in aid of Superannuations, etc.	1,80,884	1,80,258	...	626
XXIII.—Stationery and Printing ...	969	783	...	186
XXV.—Miscellaneous	38,389	46,012	7,623	...
XXIX.—Irrigation—Major Works (P. W.)	1,36,959	1,23,290	...	13,669
XXX.—Irrigation—Minor Works (Civil)	24,925	24,421	...	504
XXX.— Ditto (P. W.) ...	3,20,105	2,82,520	...	37,585
XXXI.—Civil Works	64,492	73,405	8,913	...
Total ...	10,67,34,701	9,04,20,041	55,05,087 ...	2,18,19,747 1,63,14,660

The variations shown in the above table were mainly due to the following causes: *Land Revenue* (Proper)—Larger recoveries of Survey and Settlement charges; *Opium*—The trade with China ceased entirely and the supply to non-treaty ports was reduced with a view to prevent smuggling to China; *Salt*—The increase was due partly to smaller outstanding balances under the credit system and partly to an increase in the consumption owing to a fall in prices and to the plentiful supply of foreign salt which followed the conclusion of the Turko-Italian war; *Stamps*—Larger duty realised on Probates and Letters of Administration and from Settlement operations; the exceptional prosperity in the jute-trade also contributed to the increase; *Customs*—Larger imports of Java sugar owing to low prices, of metals (excluding silver) owing to great demand for galvanised-iron sheets, of copper, tin, hardware and cutlery, manufactured articles of woollen goods, apparel, motor-cars, spirits and liquors; *Assessed Taxes*—Larger profits made by coal and jute companies and many of the banks; *Interest*—The growth of the Sinking Fund for the Kidderpore Dock Loan, the interest payable to the Fund being taken in reduction of the interest receipts for the loan; *Miscellaneous*—Larger receipts from premiums on bills owing to the favourable jute trade; *Irrigation —Major Works*—The falling-off in the navigation receipts was due to the

silting-up of the Tidal Canal and the remission of water-rates in the Midnapore Canal owing to the failure of the *kharif* crops caused by excessive rainfall; *Irrigation—Minor Works and Navigation* (*Public Works Department*)—The falling-off in the receipts of the Madaripur Bil Route was due to concessions granted to passenger steamers and in the Calcutta and Eastern Canals to the deficiency in the rice crop which reduced the traffic; *Civil Works*—Normal growth in the receipts from rent of buildings.

492. The following statement shows the Imperial expenditure in 1913-14 as compared with that of 1912-13 :— Expenditure.

Major Heads.	1912-13.	1913-14.	Increase.	Decrease.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
1. Refunds and Drawbacks ...	7,18,911	6,66,893	.....	52,018
2. Assignments and compensations	1,12,930	97,217	.....	15,713
3. Land Revenue	18,38,285	21,50,183	3,11,898	.....
4. Opium	30,246	24,129	.....	6,117
5. Salt	2,84,165	3,03,942	19,777	.....
6. Stamps	3,53,685	3,61,566	7,881	.....
9. Customs	13,37,357	13,77,139	39,782	.....
10. Assessed Taxes	76,468	77,288	820	.....
14. Interest on other obligations ...	90,133	1,13,934	23,801	.....
18. General Administration ...	4,67,583	4,73,817	6,234	.....
23. Ecclesiastical	1,91,885	1,84,515	.....	7,370
25. Political	5,452	5,400	.....	52
26. Scientific and other Minor Departments.	66,582	27,819	.....	38,763
27. Territorial and Political Pensions	7,62,691	7,93,382	30,691	.....
28. Civil Furlough, etc	.....	16	16	.....
29. Superannuation	34,547	38,591	4,044	.....
30. Stationery and Printing ...	40,250	70,088	29,838	.....
32. Miscellaneous	36,033	37,305	1,272	.....
35. Protective Irrigation Works ...	12,552	7,396	.....	5,156
42. Irrigation—Minor Works, Interest on Debt.	2,04,452	1,97,927	.....	6,525
42. Irrigation—Minor Works, Working Expenses.	1,17,859	1,48,640	30,781	.....
43. Irrigation—Minor Works (Civil)	965	982	17	.....
Ditto P. W.	7,68,154	9,61,965	1,93,811	.....
45. Civil Works (Civil) ...	5,000	5,000	.....	.....
Ditto P. W. ...	16,66,445	16,56,433	.....	10,012
Total ...	92,22,630	97,81,567	7,00,663	1,41,726
			5,58,937	

The reasons for the principal fluctuations are as follows: *Refunds and Drawbacks*—Smaller refunds under Stamps and under Salt owing to extension of the credit system; *Assignments and Compensations*—Smaller payments of Malikana; *Land Revenue*—Larger expenditure on Survey and Settlement; *Opium*—Smaller freight charges as Government steamers were available for despatch of Abkari Opium to Burma; *Salt*—Larger travelling and contingent expenses of the Preventive Establishment and larger payment of

charandars' fees; *Stamps*—Increase concomitant with the growth of revenue; *Customs*—Larger payments of rewards, dockyard supplies, rent and leave allowances of the Collector of Chittagong; *Interest on other Obligations*—Growth of the General Provident Fund; *General Administration*—Payment of leave-allowances of officers belonging to other Provinces; *Ecclesiastical*—There was a special grant for the new Roman Catholic Church opposite to Sealdah Station in 1912-13; *Scientific and other Minor Departments*—Smaller expenditure under Census; *Territorial and Political pensions*—Increase due to a special payment of Rs. 40,000 to the Nawab Bahadur of Murshidabad as contribution towards the cost of re-constructing the new Palace; *Superannuation*—Larger payment of pensions for the Military Orphan Fund; *Stationery and Printing*—Larger supplies of stationery to the Survey and Settlement Department; *Protective Irrigation Works*—Smaller expenditure on allowances to District Board Engineeers for the preparation of Famine Relief Schemes; *Irrigation—Major Works (Working expenses)*—Special expenditure on silt clearance in the Tidal Canal; *Irrigation—Minor Works (P. W)*—Special expenditure on repairs to embankments damaged by floods; *Civil Works (P. W.)*—Smaller expenditure on Salt *Golas*.

Land Revenue.

[*See* Chapter II of this Report.]

Canal Revenue.

[*See* Chapter IV of this Report—Canals.]

Sources of Revenue other than Land.

CUSTOMS.

[Report on the Maritime Trade of Bengal for the year 1913-14. Statistics of British India, Part IV, (*b*)—Finance and Revenue.]

Revenue from Customs.

493. The gross revenue from Customs (inclusive of 2·73 lakhs paid into district treasuries on account of salt imported at Calcutta) amounted to Rs. 4,56,88,000 against Rs. 4,17,92,000 in the previous year. Refunds amounted to Rs. 5,36,000 against Rs. 5,82,000, so that the net revenue amounted to Rs. 4,51,52,000, representing an advance of about 10 per cent. on the last year's figures. While the gross imports rose by 12 per cent., exports fell by 31 per cent. in consequence of the bad cultivating season.

The gross import duties amounted to Rs. 438·96 lakhs, of which Rs. 115·04 lakhs was yielded by salt alone (including the inland collections). The collections on account of other articles rose from Rs. 287·70 lakhs to Rs. 323·92 lakhs. This was chiefly due to the increase in the case of cotton-goods (Rs. 3·02 lakhs), liquors (Rs. 3·99 lakhs), metals other than copper and silver (Rs. 4·01 lakhs), sugar (Rs. 10·02 lakhs) and miscellaneous articles (5·66 lakhs). A large crop in Java, assisted by smaller imports from other countries, raised the revenue from sugar by 34 per cent., while the duty on miscellaneous articles (Rs. 57·25 lakhs) increased by 12 per cent., the principal items included therein being carriages, motor-cars, scientific instruments, arms and ammunition, apparel, glassware and provisions. Refunds and drawbacks fell by 8 per cent. to Rs. 5·36 lakhs. The larger tea-trade has given an impetus to tea-cess receipts which have risen by 6 per cent. net.

Net Income.

494. The net income of the Calcutta Custom House amounted to Rs. 4,40,31,548 against Rs. 4,00,56,282 in 1912-13, representing an increase of nearly 9 per cent. The net income of the subordinate ports amounted to Rs. 15,69,121, or Rs. 1,31,404 more than in the previous year.

Cases under the Sea Customs Act.

495. The number of cases of infringements of the Sea Customs Act was 672 against 745 in the previous year. Of these, 229 cases related to minor

errors which were corrected by the Appraisers concerned, while in seven cases action was taken under section 32, but the goods were not taken over on behalf of Government. In addition to the above the Preventive Department detected 16 cases of attempted smuggling of dutiable goods. During the year large quantities of illicit cocaine were seized in vessels arriving in the port of Calcutta, and the officers of the Pilot Service rendered great assistance to the Preventive Service. Several parcels containing feathers were detected in the port on various occasions during the year.

Cases under the Merchandise Marks Act.

496. There were 1,170 cases of infringement under the Merchandise Marks Act against 1,079 in the previous year. Of these, 748 were in respect of false trade descriptions, of which 234, 137, and 108 cases related to consignments from Germany, Japan and Italy, respectively. The penalties realised during the year amounted to Rs. 21,055 against Rs. 13,786 in 1912-13.

SALT.

[Salt Administration Report for the year 1913-14. Statistics of British India, Part IV (*b*), Finance and Revenue.]

Administration.

497. There was a considerable increase in the operations under the salt credit system. Securities to the extent of Rs. 50,16,500 were deposited during the year against Rs. 43,62,800 in 1912-13. The quantity of salt issued under this system amounted to 10,000,493 maunds against 7,414,990 maunds in the previous year. There were 44 depositors during the year, nine of whom closed their accounts leaving a balance of 35 against 37 in the previous year.

Imports.

498. The total imports into Calcutta exceeded those of the previous year by more than 11 lakhs of maunds or 8·5 per cent. There was a decrease in imports from the United Kingdom, Germany and Aden, but marked increases from Spain, Port Said, Salif and Massowah. The imports from Bombay remained at much the same figure as last year. The decrease in imports from the United Kingdom was due to the fact that freight for salt could only rarely be secured on board the regular lines. The very large increase from Salif was expected as soon as the Turko-Italian war came to an end. No salt came from Madras or Coconada.

There was a decrease of over 150,000 maunds in the imports into the port of Chittagong. The imports from the United Kingdom consisted of 34 maunds of table salt as against 93,705 maunds in the previous year, the decrease being due to the fact that Liverpool salt was unable to compete with Aden and Port Said salt in the markets of Chittagong and the adjacent districts.

Consumption and prices.

499. The total quantity of salt which passed into consumption in the Province during the year 1913-14 was 7,227,250 maunds. This is exclusive of 6,410,479 maunds, the net export by rail, road or river, but inclusive of 261 maunds educed from saltpetre. There was a decrease of 5 pies in the average price which was attributed to the fall in the prices of imported salt and to the plentiful supply of foreign salt in the Calcutta and Chittagong markets. The average wholesale price per 100 maunds of Liverpool salt, as sold from the ship's side in the Port of Calcutta exclusive of duty, was Rs. 54-6-7 against Rs. 62-2-3 in 1912-13. The market had a downward tendency throughout the year, while in the last two months of the year prices dropped rather sharply. In the Port of Chittagong the effect of more merchants entering the trade and of railway extension was to reduce prices.

Financial results.

500. As compared with 1912-13, receipts showed an increase of Rs. 11,56,155 or 9·7 per. cent. and charges, a decrease of Rs. 42,539 or 11·7 per. cent. The net revenue was Rs. 1,27,20,129, which was greater than that of the previous year by Rs. 11,98,694 or 10·4 per. cent.

Trade in saltpetre salt.

501. The quantity of salt educed in the process of refinement of saltpetre was 742 maunds against 608 maunds in 1912-13 and the quality of *Sitta* (impure salt) left in the course of refinement was 925 maunds against 907 maunds in the previous year. Two hundred and sixty-one maunds of educed salt were sold during the year against 502 maunds in the previous year.

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EXCISE.

[Report on the Administration of the Excise Department, Bengal, for the year 1913-14. Statistics of British India, Part IV (*b*)—Finance and Revenue.]

Excise Advisory Committees and Licensing Boards.

502. The system of Advisory Committees which had prevailed up to 1912-13 in the Burdwan and Presidency Divisions in towns with a population of 20,000 and over and in the Eastern Bengal towns of Dacca, Narayanganj and Chittagong was modified during the current year. Except in the Calcutta district, committees were formed in all municipalities within the Province, irrespective of their population, to advise the Collector on the proposals regarding the number and location of shops for the retail sale of all excisable articles (intoxicating drugs as well as liquor) and opium for the year 1914-15. The Divisional Commissioners were empowered to appoint the members subject to the condition that the non-official community and the Excise Department should be adequately represented. The principle was also extended to the rural areas of the Province, and the Local Boards in each Sub-Division were constituted Advisory Committees for the areas under their charge to assist the Collector in dealing with matters relating to the number and location of licensed shops. In accordance with the recommendations of the Advisory Committees thus constituted for municipal and non-municipal areas the sites of certain excise shops were changed and several others were abolished. No new shops were opened without previous consultation with these committees and full consideration was given to all recommendations made by them.

For the municipalities situated in the Calcutta district Licensing Boards were constituted on which the Municipalities, the Civil authorities, the Temperance societies and the Excise authorities were directly represented and of which the Commissioner of the Division was the President, and full powers, except that of granting licenses, were entrusted to these Boards.

Revenue.

503. The total excise revenue for the year was Rs. 1,53,88,017, an increase of Rs. 16,28,860 on the previous year. The largest increase of revenue (Rs. 6,07,559) occurred under the head "*Ganja.*" "Country spirits" comes next with an increase of Rs. 5,66,482, followed by "Opium" (Rs. 3,66,763), "Foreign liquor" excluding revenue from locally-brewed beer, and duty on locally-produced denatured spirit (Rs. 40,233), "*Tari*" (Rs. 24,181) and "*Pachwai*" (Rs. 23,368). The largest decrease (Rs. 8,068) occurred under "*Charas.*"

Country spirit.

504. The contract-supply system, which was extended to the Dacca and Chittagong Divisions from the 1st April 1913, was the only system in force in this Province during the year under report. The total consumption of country spirit in the Province amounted to 823,063 gallons, L. P. If the figures for the Chittagong Division are excluded for purposes of comparison, since the consumption in 1912-13 under the outstill system cannot be ascertained, the consumption was 805,893 proof gallons against 850,597 in the previous year, a decrease of 44,704 proof gallons. Although accurate statistics cannot be obtained, there is no doubt that the consumption of foreign liquor increased very considerably in Calcutta, Darjeeling and the Dacca Division and to some extent in several other districts. In the Burdwan Division the consumption of country spirit increased in every district except Birbhum; the increase was largely due to an improvement in the condition of the labouring classes owing to a rise of wages and also to a better harvest. The most striking fluctuations in the Presidency Division were an increase of 4,369 proof gallons in the 24-Parganas, and a decrease of 38,602 proof gallons in Calcutta. The increase in the 24-Parganas was due to the increasing number and prosperity of the mill operators and to the rise of prices in Calcutta. The large decrease in Calcutta is attributed to the increase in the rate of duty combined with a considerable enhancement of license-fees. This increase in taxation caused a rise of prices both directly, by an increase in the selling price for bottles, and indirectly, since it led the vendors to resort more largely to dilution, which is not prohibited in Calcutta. In the Dacca Division the contract liquor was unpopular in Faridpur. In

Dacca the increase in license-fees led to the enhancement of the retail price. Consumption fell in all the districts of Dacca, Faridpur and Bakarganj, but it increased in Mymensingh owing to the large outturn and high price of jute. There was a decrease of upwards of 1,000 proof gallons in every district of the Rajshahi Division except Jalpaiguri. It was largest in Darjeeling, owing to an enhancement in the rate of duty and maximum prices. The increase in consumption in Jalpaiguri was due to a large influx of labourers. The total revenue—license and distillery-fees and duty—from country spirit was Rs. 69,76,670 against Rs. 64,10,188 in 1912-13, an increase of Rs. 5,66,482. The revenue derived from duty and distillery fees increased by Rs, 3,72,109 and that from license-fees by Rs. 1,94,373. Excluding the figures for the Chittagong Division, the increase in license-fees in the area in which the contract or central distillery systems were in force in both years was Rs. 2,36,814, and that in duty and distillery-fees Rs. 2,97,525.

Tari.

505. The total number of licenses issued for the sale of fermented and fresh *tari* decreased from 1,981 to 1,884 or by 97, and the total receipts rose from Rs. 4,50,420 to Rs. 4,74,601 or by Rs. 24,181.

Pachwai.

506. The total number of *Pachwai* licenses issued was 28,029 as compared with 28,046 in 1912-13. The revenue from retail license-fees increased from Rs. 7,89,105 to Rs. 8,11,432 or by Rs. 22,327. This year the greatest increase was in Birbhum.

Foreign liquor.

507. The total number of licenses issued for the wholesale and retail sale of potable foreign liquor, exclusive of licenses for the retail sale of medicated wine and rectified spirits was 668 against 597 in the previous year. The total receipts from license-fees amounted to Rs. 3,77,075 against Rs. 3,43,239 in the preceding year. The receipts from duty on Indian-made foreign liquor were Rs. 2,32,597 as compared with Rs. 2,26,303 in 1912-13.

Ganja.

508. The total number of licenses issued in the Province for the retail sale of *ganja* was 1,402 as compared with 1,422 in 1912-13. The license-fees realised amounted to Rs. 16,43,268 against Rs. 14,62,589 in the previous year. The increase in the rate of duty by Rs. 4 per seer, combined, in the majority of districts, with increased license-fees resulted in a rise in the retail price of *ganja*, except in a few localities. There was a net decrease of 110 maunds in the quantity of *ganja* consumed within the Province, the figures being 2,960 maunds 10 seers against 3,070 maunds 10 seers in 1912-13. The increase in the price of food-grain contributed to the decrease in consumption. Consumption increased by 16 maunds 26 seers in the 24-Parganas and by 8 maunds 23 seers in Calcutta. The increase of 14 maunds 35 seers in Mymensingh was due to the heavy jute crops, which brought a large number of coolies and boatmen into the district. The receipts for the year totalled Rs. 35,15,733 against Rs. 29,08,174 in the preceding year, the net increase being Rs. 6,07,559. The revenue from license-fees increased by Rs. 1,80,679 and that from duty by Rs. 4,26,880. The incidence of license-fees per seer of *ganja* consumed was Rs. 13-9 and that of duty Rs. 15. The total taxation was thus Rs. 28-9 per seer against Rs. 22-9 in the preceding year.

Sidhi and Bhang.

509. The total consumption of *sidhi* and *bhang* amounted to 714 maunds 13 seers against 698 maunds 27 seers in the previous year. The total revenue from both license-fees and duty amounted to Rs. 1,07,468 as compared with Rs. 1,02,745 in 1912-13.

Charas.

510. The total number of licenses for the retail sale of *charas* fell to 40 from 51 in the preceding year, and the total revenue from Rs. 59,150 to Rs. 51,090, there being a decrease under both license-fees and duty.

Opium.

511. The system under which the issue of opium to retail shops is restricted to their estimated demand continued in the *Sadar* and Serampore Sub-Divisions of Hooghly, and in Howrah, the 24-Parganas, Calcutta, Bakarganj and Chittagong. During the year restrictions were imposed on the issues to a few shops in Birbhum and in Midnapore. The special system of licensing opium shops by lottery among persons previously approved by the Collector continued in Chittagong. The total number of licenses issued for the retail sale of opium was 886 against 891 in 1912-13. The total quantity of opium consumed within the Province was 1,710 maunds 5 seers as compared with 1,697 maunds 17 seers in the previous year—an increase of 12 maunds 28 seers. The total receipts amounted to Rs. 27,43,072 against

Rs. 23,76,309, showing an increase of Rs. 3,66,763 or 15 per cent., whilst consumption only rose by ·75 per cent.

In connection with the recommendations of the Shanghai Commission, reports regarding (1) the revision of treasury prices, (2) legislation to check opium-smoking, and (3) the consolidation of the rules relating to morphia and its allied compounds were obtained from the Excise Commissioner during the year. Orders have since been passed regarding the unification of the treasury prices of opium throughout the Province. The hours of sale have been further curtailed with effect from the 1st April 1914. The restrictions on the import of opium and its preparations were continued, and permits were granted only to respectable chemists and druggists.

Cocaine. 512. The abuse of cocaine is common in Calcutta and its neighbourhood and in the towns of Burdwan, Raniganj and Asansol and in the district of Burdwan. In Calcutta the illicit traffic continues to flourish notwithstanding the large increase in the number of cases detected; it is hoped that when effect has been given to the proposal to increase the maximum penalty for offences connected with cocaine, prosecutions may prove more deterrent. The total quantity of cocaine seized in Bengal during the year under report was 85 lbs. 10 oz. 23 grs. (Avoirdupois) against 373 lbs. 1 oz. 254½ grs. in the previous year.

Excise Offences. 513. The total number of persons arrested on charges under the Excise laws during the year was 3,622 as compared with 3,401 in 1912-13 and 3,325 persons were convicted against 3,016 in the preceding year.

STAMPS.

[Stamp Administration Report for the three years ending the 31st March 1914. Statistics of British India, Part IV (*b*)—Finance and Revenue.]

Revenue. 514. The total receipts under the Stamp and Court-fees Acts amounted to Rs. 2,21,97,373 and showed an increase of Rs. 12,84,377 or 5·7 per cent. over the receipts of 1912-13. The increase occurred both in judicial and non-judicial stamps, and was due to the favourable condition of trade. The charges during the year amounted to Rs. 5,54,201 against Rs. 5,56,025.

Judicial stamps. 515. The sale-proceeds from Court-fee stamps (excluding stamps for copies) continued to rise and amounted to Rs. 1,37,60,789 as against Rs. 1,32,27,346 in 1912-13. The increase occurred in all the Divisions except Burdwan. The decrease in the latter Division was attributed to the decrease in the number of title-suits and suits of higher value. The increase in the Presidency Division, which occurred chiefly in Calcutta and the 24-Parganas, was due to an increase in the amount of duty paid on probates and letters of administration. The increase in the Dacca Division was due to settlement operations and valuations in probate cases.

Non-Judicial stamps. 516. The receipts from the sale of non-judicial stamps rose from Rs. 67,17,703 in 1912-13 to Rs. 73,96,700, showing an increase of Rs. 6,78,997. Of this, Rs. 2,90,284 occurred in Calcutta and was due to the general prosperity of trade and to the additional stamp duty levied under the Calcutta Improvement Act. In the Dacca Division there was an increase of Rs. 1,91,193 which was attributed to the settlement operations and the consequent increase in the number of bonds and transfer deeds, and to the increased number of documents registered as a result of the high prices of food-stuffs. The other districts which showed the greatest increases were Tippera (Rs. 55,503), Rangpur (Rs. 25,772), Noakhali (Rs. 17,472), Khulna (Rs. 15,647) and Dinajpur (Rs. 11,909). The increases were due to the execution of a larger number of simple and mortgage deeds as a result of the high prices of food-grains.

Sale of stamps. 517. The number of vendors who held licenses to sell stamps during the year 1913-14 was 5,105 against 4,869 in 1912-13; and the amount of discount allowed to such vendors rose from Rs. 3,37,717 to Rs. 3,67,882.

Deficient duty. 518. The total number of cases in which deficient duty and penalty were levied by the Courts under section 35 of Act II of 1899 during the

year fell from 2,607 to 2,234, and the amount of duty and penalty realised from Rs. 15,452 to Rs. 14,287. The total number of cases decided by Revenue courts, under sections 32, 37, 40 and 41 of the Act, decreased from 3,074 to 2,913 and the amount of duty and penalty realised from Rs. 58,703 to Rs. 49,752. The figures indicate that the people are becoming more conversant with the law and more careful as to the value of stamps.

Prosecutions under the Stamp Act.

519. The number of cases instituted for the infringement of the provisions of the Stamp Act was 992, in which 921 persons were brought to trial and 893 convicted, as against 1,313 cases and 1,355 convicted persons in the previous year. The fines imposed, together with composition money, amounted to Rs. 4,590, as against Rs. 7,116 in 1912-13. The falling-off was particularly marked in Calcutta, where the public is learning to take greater precaution in stamping documents. The amount of rewards paid to informers was Rs. 2,375, as compared with Rs. 3,480 in the previous year.

Working of section 19H of the Court fees Act.

520. Enquiries were made in 76·5 per cent. of the cases of valuation of estates for the issue of Probates or Letters of Administration reported during the year. The corresponding percentage of the previous year was 92. The proportion borne by the deficient court-fees realised to the amount originally paid was 7·8, as compared with 10·1 in the previous year. No case of serious under-valuation was reported.

INCOME-TAX.

[Income-tax Administration Report for the three years ending the 31st March 1914. Statistics of British India, Part IV (*b*), Finance and Revenue.]

Financial result.

521. The receipts, charges and net revenue under the head Income-tax were Rs. 66,49,007, Rs, 1,67,989 and Rs. 64,81,018, respectively. The net revenue showed an increase of 20·02 per cent. over that of the previous year.

Collections.

522. The total collections on account of the tax under all parts during the year 1913-14 showed an increase of Rs. 10,22,545 or 21·2 per cent. over those of 1912-13 and Rs. 12,57,354 or 27·5 per cent. over those of 1911-12. To this increase, Part I (salaries, pensions, annuities and gratuities) contributed Rs. 47,154, Part II (companies) Rs. 7,35,290, Part III (securities) Rs. 11,820 and Part IV (other sources) Rs. 2,28,281.

The percentage of tax collected under each part on the total amount of the tax collected during the year 1913-14 was as follows :—

Part I.—Salaries and pensions, etc.	16·5
Part II.—Profit of Companies	28·5
Part III.—Interest on Securities	2·7
Part IV.—Other Sources	52·3

Assessment.

523. The total number of persons finally assessed in 1913-14 amounted to 52,878, showing an increase of 4·5 and 9·5 per cent. over the figures for 1912-13 and 1911-12, whilst the final demand showed an increase of 19·6 and 26·7 per cent. over the figures for those two years. Of the total increase in demand, Calcutta contributed Rs. 9,10,432 or nearly 92 per cent. The increase was due to the general expansion of trade and especially to the flourishing condition of the piece-goods, jute, and coal markets.

Incidence of tax.

524. Excluding Calcutta only one person in every 1,448 of the population paid income-tax and the average amount paid by each assessee was Rs. 54. In Calcutta, the proportion was one person in 54 and the average tax paid Rs. 197.

Forest Revenue.

[*See* Chapter IV of this Report—Forests.]

C.—Revenue and Finance other than Imperial.

PROVINCIAL FINANCE.

Receipts and Expenditure.

525. The following statement shows the actual receipts and charges on account of Provincial Services for 1913-14, as compared with those of 1912-13 :—

[The figures are in thousands of rupees.]

RECEIPTS.	Actuals.		EXPENDITURE.	Actuals.	
	1912-13	1913-14.		1912-13.	1913-14.
Opening Balance.	Rs.	Rs.	Direct demand on the revenues—	Rs.	Rs.
Principal Heads of Revenue—			1. Refunds and Drawbacks	1,44	1,35
			2. Assignments and Compensations ...	51	27
I.—Land Revenue { Proper ...	1,50,64	1,58,00	3. Land Revenue	32,36	35,25
I.—Land Revenue { Adjustment	+ 1,46,74	+ 57,53	6. Stamps	3,54	3,62
IV.—Stamps	1,03,72	1,09,55	7. Excise	5,98	6,31
V.—Excise	1,37,59	1,53,89	8. Provincial Rates	39	...
VI.—Provincial Rates	32,02	1,31	10. Assessed Taxes	76	77
VIII.—Assessed Taxes	27,76	33,19	11. Forests	6,61	6,40
IX.—Forest	16,01	16,16	12. Registration	10,51	11,26
X.—Registration	18,23	20,16	Total ...	62,10	65,23
Total ...	6,42,71	5,49,79	13. Interest on ordinary debt	4,42	4,40
XII.—Interest	5,01	4,30	Salaries and Expenses of Civil Department—		
			18. General Administration	25,47	24,31
Receipts by Civil Department—	...	...	19. Law and Justice { Courts of Law ...	96,39	1,00,38
			19. Law and Justice { Jails	19,62	22,63
XVI.—Law and Justice { Courts of Law.	8,15	8,43	20. Police	84,00	94,66
XVI.—Law and Justice { Jails... ...	7,03	6,58	21. Ports and Pilotage	12,16	14,28
XVII.—Police	2,39	1,57	22. Education...	73,77	81,12
XVIII.—Ports and Pilotage	17,52	16,76	24. Medical	26,42	28,51
XIX.—Education	7,78	8,11	25. Political	39	32
XX.—Medical	4.27	4,20	26. Scientific and other Minor Departments.	16,64	14,25
XXI.—Scientific and ther Minor Departments.	2,18	2,78	Total ...	3,54,86	3,80,46
Total ...	49,32	48,43	Miscellaneous—		
			29. Superannuation, etc.	29,26	31,00
			30. Stationery and Printing	13,34	14,85
Miscellaneous—			32. Miscellaneous	4,26	5,88
			Total ...	46,86	51,73
XXII.—Receipts in aid of Superannuation.	48	39	Famine Relief and Insurance—		
XXIII.—Stationery and Printing ...	1.20	1,38	33. Famine Relief	...	...
XXV.—Miscellaneous	7,72	7,48	36. Reduction or Avoidance of debt. ...	60	60
Total ...	9,40	9,25	Railways (Revenue Account)—		
			40. Subsidised Companies—Land, etc. ...	...	...
Irrigation—			Total ...	...	...
XXIX.—Major works (direct receipt) ...	1,37	1,23	Irrigation—		
XXX.—Minor Works and Navigation—			42. Major Works—		
By Public Works Department	3,20	2,83	Working expenses	1,18	1,49
,, Civil Department	25	24	Interest on debt	1,75	1,70
Total ...	4,82	4,30	43. Minor Works and Navigation—		
			By Public Works Department ...	7,68	9,62
			,, Civil Department	1	1
			Total ...	10,62	12,82
Buildings and Roads—			Buildings and Roads—		
XXXII.—Civil Works—			45. Civil Works—		
By Public Works Department—	3,85	4,42	By Public Works Department ..	63,22	76,32
,, Civil Department	1,42	1,66	,, Civil Department	26,80	25,75
Total ...	5,27	6,08	Total ...	90,02	1,02,07
Total Receipts ...	7,16,53	6,22,15	Total Charges ...	5,69,48	6,17,31

Variations : (a) Receipts.

526. The decrease under *Land Revenue* was due mainly to the Damodar floods which necessitated the suspension of collections from Government Estates in the Contai Sub-Division of Midnapore and that under *Adjustments* was due to the fact that no non-recurring assignments were sanctioned for Education and Sanitation. The variations under the heads *Stamps and Assessed Taxes, Irrigation—Major and Minor Works*, which are divided heads, have been explained in the section on Imperial Finance. The increase under *Excise* was exceptionally large owing to prosperous conditions. The duty on country spirit was increased in certain districts and the contract-supply system was introduced in the Chittagong Division. The duty on *ganja* was also raised. The decrease under *Provincial Rates* was due to surrender of

the Public Works Cess to the District Boards. The increase under *Forests* was owing to better prices realised in the Sundarbans and in Buxa, and that under *Registration* was caused by the favourable economic conditions of the year. The decrease under *Interest* was due to smaller recoveries from notabilities and to smaller interest on agricultural loans which are being gradually repaid. The increase under *Courts of Law* was the usual growth in magisterial fines while the decrease under *Jails* was due to smaller demands from other departments for manufactured articles, that under *Police* to smaller recoveries on account of punitive police owing to their withdrawal from Jessore, Khulna and Rangpur, and that under *Ports and Pilotage* to smaller pilotage receipts owing to reduction in the number of inward vessels. The increase under *Education* was caused by the growth in the number of students. There was a special contribution of Rs. 50,000 in 1912-13 from the Indian Research Fund for the clearing of jungle which raised the receipts under *Medical* in that year. The increase under *Scientific and other Minor Departments* was due to larger supplies of quinine sulphate to the Lahore Cantonment and the Juvenile Jail. The replacement by private practitioners of Assistant Surgeons and others lent to private bodies reduced the receipts from pension contributions which are credited to the head *Superannuation* while the larger sale of Gazettes and other Press receipts increased the receipts under *Stationery and Printing*. The smaller lapse of unclaimed deposits caused the decrease under *Miscellaneous*. The increase under *Civil Works in charge of Public Works Department* came from the sale of buildings and rent receipts, while the increase under *Civil Works in charge of Civil Officers* was mainly due to re-settlement of Government ferries at higher rents in Mymensingh and some other districts.

(b) Expenditure.

527. The decrease under *Refunds and Drawbacks* was due to smaller refunds under Stamps, and that under *Assignments and Compensations* to smaller payments of "malikana." The increase under *Land Revenue* was owing partly to the expansion of Survey and Settlement work which has not yet been finally adjusted and partly to the appointment of Additional Sub-Deputy Collectors as Circle Officers. The variations under *Stamps* and *Irrigation—Major and Minor Works*, which are divided heads, have been explained in the section on Imperial Finance. The increase under *Excise* was due to higher grade pay of the Commissioner of Excise, and the return from leave of the Assistant Commissioner and increased travelling allowances owing to extended preventive work. With the surrender of Public Works Cess to District Boards the charges for collections have been debited to those bodies and there is no charge under *Provincial Rates*. The cessation of departmental operations in Bengal caused the decrease under *Forest*, while the opening of new offices and the creation of additional appointments consequent on the expansion of registration work caused the increase under *Registration*. The decrease under *General Administration* was due to the inclusion in actuals of 1912-13 of special expenditure for furniture for the Governor of Bengal and initial expenditure in connection with Bodyguard and Band. The increase under *Courts of Law* occurred mainly under Civil and Sessions Courts owing to the revision of the Sub-Judicial Service and the creation of an additional appointment of District and Sessions Judge and partly under Criminal Courts, in consequence of the appointment of additional Sub-Deputy Collectors as Circle Officers and the entertainment of the full complement of Judges in the High Court. The increase under *Jails* was caused by larger dietary expenses owing to high prices and by larger purchase of raw materials with the object of stimulating jail industries, while that under *Police* was caused by the introduction of further reforms including the replacement of Armed by Military Police in Calcutta and the augmentation of forces in the districts specially in Eastern Bengal. The increase under *Ports and Pilotage* was mainly due to the grant of Rs. 1,50,000 to the Chittagong Port and also to smaller recoveries on account of charges incurred by the Agent for Government Consignments which are adjusted as a *minus* entry under *Ports Establishment*. The increase under *Education* was chiefly due to the acquisition of a market for the extension of the Calcutta University buildings and to larger grants to schools for the construction of buildings and hostels and to colleges and schools for both male and female education. The expenditure on *Medical*

was swelled by grants to the Dacca Mitford Hospital, and to the Mymensingh Hospital, by special grants for phthisis wards and other purposes, by larger grants for the general improvement of hospitals and dispensaries, by larger outlay on medical stores for the Medical College Hospital and by expenditure on Serological tests in that college. The decrease under *Scientific and other Minor Departments* was owing to smaller purchase of Cinchona bark, while the increase under *Superannuation* was for larger payments on account of commuted values of pensions, and that under *Stationery and Printing* was for larger supplies of stationery to the Forms Department and the Dacca Jail Press. The increase under *Miscellaneous* was caused by expenditure on relief operations in flooded areas, by larger expenditure under Special Commissions of Enquiry owing to the formation of the District Administration Committee and the Port Development Committee and by the debit to this head for the first time of the charges for the Secretariat Buildings establishment at Calcutta which were adjusted under Civil Works in previous years. The increase under *Civil Works in charge of the Public Works Department* was for larger expenditure on new works while the decrease under *Civil Works in charge of Civil Officers* was due to the adjustment of the Chittagong Port grant to *Ports and Pilotage*, instead of to this head and also to smaller grants to the District Boards for augmentation of their resources.

Local Funds.

[Report on Local Funds in Bengal for the year 1913-14.]

Balances.

528. The following statement shows the income and expenditure and the opening and closing balances of the different Local Funds in the Province for the year 1913-14 :—

Name of Fund.	Opening balance.	Receipts.	Total.	Payments.	Closing balance.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
District Funds	29,71,361	1,07,77,397	1,37,48,758	86,28,876	51,19,882
District Road Fund, Darjeeling ...	31,337	91,748	1,23,085	83,481	39,604
Union Funds—					
Birbhum	...	1,424	1,424	1,431	−7
Burdwan	...	339	339	...	339
Jessore	...	8,707	8,707	4,055	4,652
Nadia	...	476	476	60	416
Total ...	...	10,946	10,946	5,546	5,400
Cantonment Funds—					
Alipore	1,246	4,475	5,721	4,411	1,310
Barrackpore	11,692	53,617	65,309	55,900	9,409
Dum-Dum	6,806	23,627	30,433	25,630	4,803
Jalapahar	162	10,795	10,957	10,582	375
Lebong	142	8,492	8,634	7,043	1,591
Takdah	1,188	15,598	16,786	15,046	1,740
Buxa Duar	378	1,610	1,988	1,555	433
Total ...	21,614	1,18,214	1,39,828	1,20,167	19,661
Cantonment Hospital Funds—					
Barrackpore	49	4,847	4,896	4,892	4
Dum-Dum	1	1,216	1,217	1,217	...
Jalapahar	125	88	213	213	...
Total ...	175	6,151	6,326	6,322	4

Name of Fund.	Opening balance.	Receipts.	Total.	Payments.	Closing balance.
	Rs.	Rs	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Town and Bazar Funds—					
Chittagong Hill Tracts Bazar Funds.	9,107	5,759	14,866	8,204	6,662
Jalpaiguri Western Duars Market.	26,890	38,987	65,877	35,241	30,636
Total ...	35,997	44,746	80,743	43,445	37,298
Police Funds—					
District Chaukidari Reward	1,17,387	73,137	1,90,524	76,038	1,14,486
Foundling Asylum ...	17	3,419	3,436	3,422	14
Fire-Brigade	43,733	2,46,302	2,90,035	2,52,160	37,875
Total ...	1,61,137	3,22,858	4,83,995	3,31,620	1,52,375
Marine Funds—					
Hospital Port Dues (Calcutta)	- 11,006	1,10,215	99,209	94,696	4,513
Ditto (Chittagong)	1,901	7,857	9,758	5,632	4,126
Chittagong Port Fund ...	69,718	4,60,410	5,30,128	3,47,916	1,82,212
Total ...	60,613	5,78,482	6,39,095	4,48,244	1,90,851
Education Funds—					
Hindu College	4,957	4,751	9,708	4,110	5,598
Durga Charan Laha's ...	...	2,877	2,877	2,877	...
Total ...	4,957	7,628	12,585	6,987	5,598
Medical and Charitable Funds—					
Pilgrim Lodging House ...	17,784	8,185	25,969	13,716	12,253
Bengal Famine Orphan ...	4,172	1,222	5,394	...	5,394
Panna Lal Mukherjee's Endowment	8,145	2,130	10,275	7,515	2,760
Joy Gobind Laha's ...	23,527	4,140	27,667	5,000	22,667
Imambara Hospital ...	5,369	16,737	22,106	19,625	2,481
Chittagong General Hospital	12,730	19,430	32,160	24,035	8,125
Total ...	71,727	51,844	1,23,571	69,891	53,680
Public Works Fund—					
Darjeeling Improvement Fund	47,414	1,27,845	1,75,259	1,23,689	51,570
Total ...	47,414	1,27,845	1,75,259	1,23,689	51,570
Miscellaneous Funds—					
Steam Boiler Inspection ...	38,314	82,324	1,20,638	97,015	23,623
Zoological Garden ...	9,896	1,01,921	1,11,818	90,026	21,792
Mohsin Endowment ...	6,486	1,26,198	1,32,684	1,25,319	7,365
Christian Burial Board ...	3,405	27,067	30,471	23,362	7,109
Muhammadan Burial Board	700	2,216	2,916	2,121	795
Total ...	58,801	3,39,726	3,98,527	3,37,843	60,684
Grand Total ...	34,65,133	1,24,77,585	1,59,42,718	1,02,06,111	57,36,607

529. The increase in the balance of the District Funds was due to the surrender of the entire receipts on account of Public Works Cess from the commencement of the year. The Union Committees of the districts of Birbhum, Burdwan, Jessore and Nadia opened separate accounts at the local Treasuries in the last quarter of the year and became independent Local Grants.

Funds. The fund in the district of Birbhum overdrew its balance to the extent of Rs. 7 in March 1914, but regained its solvency in May 1914. The Cantonment Funds received the following grants from the Military Department: Jalapahar Rs. 5,878; Lebong Rs. 4,222; Takdah Rs. 12,676 and Buxa Duar Rs. 1,100. The Jalapahar Cantonment Hospital Fund was abolished from May 1913. The Hospital Port Dues Fund, Calcutta, opened with a deficit balance of Rs. 11,005; but this was made up in June 1913 by the sale of securities to the extent of Rs. 30,000. The Chittagong Port Fund obtained from the Provincial Revenues a subsidy of 1½ lakhs, of which a moiety was met by an assignment from the Imperial Revenues. The Durga Charan Laha's Fund received a grant of Rs. 1,103. The accumulated balance of the Ram Lal Mukherjee's Fund was utilised during the year in alleviating distress in Birbhum and Hooghly caused by the abnormal flood. Rather more than the actual receipts of Babu Joygobind Laha's Fund was spent on relief work in Bankura in February 1914, but the fund has a balance of over Rs. 20,000. The Darjeeling Improvement Fund received a share of the Public Works Cess realised in the district. The Mohsin Fund received an additional remittance of Rs. 10,000 from the Syedpur Estates and the Muhammadan Burial Board Fund a grant of Rs. 2,216 from the Provincial Revenues.

Road and Public Works Cesses.

(Land Revenue Administration Report of Bengal for the year 1913-14.)

Rate.

530. The Cess Act was in force throughout the Province except the Chittagong Hill tracts, and in all districts the Road and Public Works Cesses continued to be levied at the maximum rate of one anna in the rupee on the annual value of lands and the annual net profits of mines and other immovable properties.

Demand and collection.

531. The current demand of land revenue for the cess-paying districts was Rs. 2,71,03,650 or 23·3 per cent. of the annual valuation or gross rental on which cesses are based (Rs. 11,59,30,451). The total demand of both cesses was Rs. 70,21,777 including Rs. 7,66,047 for arrears and the total collections amounted to Rs. 62,73,719. The current demand of the year showed an increase of Rs. 1,20,072. The most noticeable increase occurred in the 24-Parganas (Rs. 34,260), Faridpur (Rs. 41,339) and Tippera (Rs. 28,348) and was due mainly to valuation and revaluation; but in Faridpur partly also to transfer of estates from other districts. There was a slight falling-off in the percentage of collections (from 101·4 to 100·2), while with the increase in the demand there was an increase in the collections and balances. There was also a considerable reduction in the amount remitted, *viz.*, Rs. 60,826 as against Rs. 1,29,540 of the previous year. Of this amount the district of Burdwan was responsible for Rs. 51,037 owing to the annual revision of the assessment of coal mines under section 72 of the Act. In thirteen districts collections exceeded the prescribed standard of 100 per cent. on the current demand. No arrears of cess became barred by limitation during the year.

Working of the certificate procedure.

532. Certificates to the number of 43,916 against 54,191 in the preceding year were filed for the recovery of cess arrears. The decrease was most marked in Nadia (2,501) and Chittagong (8,244); in the former district the certificates for the *kist* of March were not issued till after the close of the year, while in the latter a large number of certificates had been issued in the previous year for the recovery of petty arrears incidental to the general revaluation operations, which ran the risk of being barred by limitation. These measures caused the owners to pay their dues more promptly during the year under report. Including 15,789 certificates pending from the previous year, the total number of certificates for disposal in the Province was 59,705, of which 49,458 were disposed of, leaving 10,247 pending, 1,152 for over six months. The percentage of disposal was more than 5 per cent. higher than that of the previous year. Arrears were recovered in 12,249 cases on the issue of preliminary notices under the Certificate Act, in 33,324 cases after notices for attachment of property, and in only 703 cases by actual sale.

Valuation and revaluation.

533. Revaluation operations were in progress in Midnapore, Dacca, Faridpur and Jalpaiguri under the control of the Settlement Department. Revaluations on a large scale under the ordinary procedure in the 24-Parganas, Jessore and Dinajpur were concluded during the year. Similar operations were in progress in Nadia, Khulna and Tippera. The revision of the revaluation proceedings in Bakarganj under a Deputy Collector was also in progress.

Legislation.

534. A noteworthy feature of the administration of the Cess Department was that the resources of District Boards were augmented during the year by the surrender to them of the entire proceeds of the Public Works Cess. A Bill to give legal effect to the change was submitted to the Government of India for approval towards the close of the year.

Municipal Revenue.

[*See* Chapter III of this Report—Municipal Administration.]

CHAPTER VI.—VITAL STATISTICS AND MEDICAL SERVICE.

Vital Statistics.

[The Reports of the Sanitary Commissioner and the Sanitary Board, Bengal, for the year 1913. Statistics of British India,—Part V—Area, Population and Public Health.]

Climatic conditions.

535. The rainfall was above the average in February and May. The monsoon rains set in early commencing practically from the 12th June. August was marked by heavy rainfall in Bihar and Chota Nagpur and this caused disastrous floods in the Damodar river. These floods submerged large tracts in the Howrah, Hooghly and Burdwan districts and also inundated the Contai, Tamluk and Ghatal Sub-Divisions of Midnapore.

Births and deaths.

536. Both birth and death-rates showed a decrease, the figures being 33·75 and 29·38 per mille, as compared with 35·30 and 29·77 per mille in 1912. The decrease of the birth-rate is attributed to the high prices of food-grains in 1912 and to the general unhealthiness of the year, while the decrease in the death-rate was mainly under the heads "Cholera" and "Other causes." These rates compare less favourably with those of other provinces than in the previous year, but the excess of births over deaths remains satisfactory. The Divisional statistics show that Dacca and Chittagong had the lowest death-rates while Rajshahi and Chittagong had the highest birth-rates. Chittagong continued to be the healthiest Division though there was a large increase in cholera mortality in the district of Noakhali. Infantile mortality decreased slightly, the death-rate being 20·95 as against 21·23 in 1912. The highest rate was recorded in Calcutta.

Fever.

537. There was a slight rise in the mortality from fever, the total number of deaths recorded under this head in 1913 being 965,546, or 72 per cent. of the number of deaths from all causes. Dinajpur and Jalpaiguri had the highest death-rates, but it is satisfactory that these rates were lower than in the previous year. Malda, which headed the list in 1912 with a death-rate of 35·83, showed a marked improvement in 1913 with a rate of 28·93; this would show that the employment of additional Sub-Assistant Surgeons to distribute quinine in that district had a beneficial effect.

Provincial Malaria Committee.

538. Anti-malarial measures were confined to the extension of the sale of quinine. Quinine in "treatment" form has become very popular with the people, and steps have been taken to increase the facilities for its sale. These formed the chief subjects of discussion by the Malaria Committee. Major Fry was on leave during the greater part of the year. He submitted his second malaria report during his absence. Dr. Bentley continued his researches and drew up two experimental anti-malaria schemes in addition to submitting reports.

Cholera.

539. Cholera accounted for an unusually large number of deaths in Noakhali; but, owing to a plenteous and well-distributed rainfall, the death-rate from this disease throughout the Province fell from 2·10 to 1·74 per mille.

Dysentery and Diarrhœa.

540. The number of deaths from dysentery and diarrhœa continued to increase; 33,195 deaths were recorded under these heads, as compared with 27,335 in 1912. The intensity of these diseases was greatest in Howrah and Darjeeling.

Plague.

541. The number of deaths from plague fell from 1,995 to 984. As in previous years, the disease was confined almost entirely to Calcutta and its suburbs. In Calcutta twenty-nine persons were inoculated with anti-plague serum and 186,347 rats were destroyed.

Verification of vital statistics.

542. Registration of vital statistics continued to be defective in Eastern Bengal and in Burdwan. Rangpur showed the high percentage of 13·66 omissions to register deaths.

Emigration.

COLONIAL EMIGRATION.

[The Annual Report on Emigration from the Port of Calcutta to British and Foreign Colonies during the year 1913. Statistics of British India, Part V—Area, Population and Public Health.]

Administrative measures.

543. The most important events of the year 1913 were the amalgamation of the emigration agencies for Trinidad, Fiji, Jamaica and Mauritius with that for British Guiana and the appointment of a central agency at Benares. These measures were the outcome of the recommendations of Lord Sanderson's Committee on Emigration from India to the Crown Colonies and Protectorates. They aim at effecting improvements in the recruitment of labour for the Colonies, but as they were only introduced on the 1st January 1914, it is too early to appreciate their working.

Emigration Agencies and despatch of emigrants.

544. As in previous years there were five emigration agencies in Calcutta, four working for British Colonies and one for the Dutch Colony Surinam. The demand for labour decreased from 8,821 in 1912 to 5,167 in the year under review. The supply to Trinidad, Jamaica, Fiji and Surinam exceeded the demand by 866. This was mainly accounted for by the fact that 512 emigrants were supplied to Jamaica to meet the requisition of 1912, and 226 were sent to Fiji to make up a shortage in the number to be supplied from Madras. British Guiana was the sole Colony which failed to obtain the requisite number of coolies.

Recruitment and registration of emigrants.

545. The number of licenses issued to recruiters in 1913 was 1,211, shewing a decrease of 195 on the previous year. The smaller demand for labour accounts for this decrease. On the other hand, the number of licenses issued for Surinam alone rose from 94 to 174. No explanation of this is given and enquiries are being made. Forty-eight licenses were cancelled during the year, 30 of which were granted in 1912. Thirty-nine licenses were cancelled for misconduct and nine for other causes. Operations were conducted in Bengal, Bihar and Orissa, the United Provinces, Ajmere, the Central Provinces and the Punjab. The United Provinces, as usual, supplied the largest number of emigrants, 73·66 per cent. of the total number coming from these Provinces. The total number of emigrants registered was 9,171, as compared with 11,698 in the previous year. The decrease was due to the smaller demand. One thousand one hundred and eight coolies were rejected as physically unfit, 230 deserted and 604 were released from their engagements. The casualties in the depôts from all causes amounted to 26·2 per cent. as against 19·24 per cent. in the previous year. The increase may be ascribed to less careful selection in the districts possibly on account of greater difficulty in obtaining suitable emigrants. Of the number actually embarked 3·83 per cent. were returned emigrants, a reduction of ·98 per cent. on the previous year. Surinam required and obtained the largest number of emigrants, 1,675 going to the Dutch Colony, 1,240 to British Guiana and 1,188 to Trinidad.

Sanitary arrangements in depots.

546. The sanitary arrangements in the depôts continued satisfactory, though the percentages of sickness and mortality rose by ·07 and ·12, respectively. The increase in mortality was chiefly among infants. Cases of cerebro-spinal meningitis declined from 12 (with 10 deaths) in 1912 to 6 (with 5 deaths) in the year under review. Orders have recently issued abolishing the experimental open-air hospital in the British Guiana emigration depôt and directing suspected cases to be sent to the Medical College Hospital for treatment.

Returned emigrants and their savings.

547. Three thousand five hundred and fifty-one emigrants left the Colonies during the year bringing with them savings aggregating Rs. 6,43,564, or an average of Rs. 181-3-9 per head, as compared with Rs. 194-12-4 in 1912. On the other hand, no fewer than 2,174 emigrants or 61·22 per cent. of the total returned with no savings. The average remittances from resident emigrants to India shewed little variation from the figures of the previous year, except in the case of Mauritius, where the average rose by two annas

per head, corresponding to an increase of over Rs. 32,000 in the value of the remittances. Natal's remittances, amounting to nearly eleven lakhs, again far exceeded those from other Colonies, but these figures probably included remittances from traders and other Indians not belonging to the labouring classes. The remittances from Mauritius and Fiji would probably have been larger, but for the fact that the immigrants there invested largely in immovable property and draught animals with a view to permanent settlement in the Colonies.

Two hundred and thirty-four estates of deceased emigrants valued at Rs. 17,369 were administered by Government during the year. Of these the heirs of 148 were traced, and 52 lapsed to the Colonial and Indian Governments; the others were still under enquiry at the end of the year. The emigration accounts closed with a deficit of Rs. 8,013. This is largely accounted for by the decrease of Rs. 7,200 on the receipt side of the account, resulting from a fall of 2,400 in the number of coolies embarked.

INLAND EMIGRATION.

[The reports on Inland Emigration under the Assam Labour and Emigration Act, 1901 (VI of 1901) for the year ending the 30th June 1914, and the Annual Report on the working of the Jalpaiguri Labour Act, 1912 (II of 1912) for the year ending the 30th June 1914.]

Administration changes.

548. During the year under report the rules prescribing the routes for the transit of emigrants to the labour districts were amended, the through railway route *viâ* Amingaon being substituted for the steamer route *viâ* Dhubri.

Number of emigrants embarked at Goalundo.

549. The number of emigrants of all classes from Bengal, Madras, Bihar and Orissa, the United Provinces, the Central Provinces and the adjoining Native States, who embarked at Goalundo during the year, was 55,166, as compared with 53,253 in the preceding year. Of this number, which was the largest number recorded since the year 1909-10, 4,785 were recruited by licensed contractors, 1,740 by garden *sardars* working under Chapter IV of the Act, and 40,461 by garden *sardars* working under the control of recognized associations, as against 3,291, 1,744, and 43,085, respectively, in the previous year. Eight hundred and forty-two emigrants, recruited by specially-employed garden *sardars* under section 90 of the Act, were despatched during the year, as against none in the previous year, while the number of emigrants alleged to have been recruited in Native States has again risen, the figures being 7,338 for the year under report and 5,133 for 1912-13.

Recruitment of emigrants and recruiting agencies.

550. As in the previous year, recruiting operations were conducted in this Province in the districts of Bankura, Burdwan, Birbhum, Midnapore and the 24-Parganas. The total number of emigrants registered in these districts under Chapters III and IV of the Act was 864 and 595, respectively, as against 892 and 314 in the preceding year. One hundred and one emigrants recruited by licensed contractors and 415 emigrants recruited by garden *sardars* working under Chapter IV of the Act were sent to the labour districts without being placed on any contract in the recruiting districts. The number of unindentured emigrants recruited by garden *sardars* accredited as the local agents of approved associations was 1,080, as compared with 1,397 in the year 1912-13. As in previous years the work of these local agents was generally satisfactory.

As in the preceding year, only three licensed contractors carried on recruiting business during the year under report; but the number of recruiters licensed on their behalf was 28, or 24 less than that in the year 1912-13. The licenses of two recruiters were cancelled. Of the 1,089 garden *sardars* employed in this Province during the year, 109 worked under the ordinary procedure of Chapter IV of the Act and 980 under the control of approved associations, as against 52 and 975, respectively, in the previous year.

Criminal cases.

551. The number of criminal cases in connection with recruitment was 24 only as compared with 36 in the preceding year. The number of

persons convicted was ten as against 25 in the year 1912-13. The reports shew that greater caution was displayed by registering officers and that local officers were on the watch to prevent illicit recruitment.

552. The depôts, places of accommodation, and rest-houses for emigrants were duly inspected and kept in proper sanitary condition, and the efficiency of the arrangements for the transport of emigrants was maintained. Among the 4,856 emigrants despatched by contractors to Goalundo, there was no death during their journey to that station or on the steamer voyage. Among the *sardari* emigrants, of whom 43,075 arrived at Goalundo, two deaths were reported during their transit to that place and five deaths after their arrival there. Among the 44,040 emigrants despatched by steamer to Assam 14 died on the voyage, the death-rate having risen from ·02 in the previous year to ·03 in the year under review. Among the 46,929 emigrants reported to have passed through Chandpur only two deaths occurred. The figures shew that the transport arrangements continued satisfactory. **Condition of depots and rest-houses.**

553. Ninety-eight emigrants were repatriated during the year from the labour districts through Goalundo, also 165 coolies, who refused to embark at Goalundo for the labour districts. **Repatriation of emigrants.**

554. This was the first complete year in which the Jalpaiguri Labour Act was in force. Out of 119 estates 46 were inspected ; of these 41 were under European and 5 under Indian management. The total cooly population was 182,608 or an average of 1,534·5 per garden. The housing and medical arrangements were found to be generally satisfactory, and the coolies contented. Wages were reported to be sufficiently high to allow of good bodily nutrition and a certain standard of comfort. **Jalpaiguri Labour Act, 1912.**

Medical Relief.

CALCUTTA MEDICAL INSTITUTIONS.

[The Triennial Report on the Working of the Hospitals and Dispensaries under the Government of Bengal for the years 1911, 1912 and 1913. Statistics of British India, Part V—Area, Population and Public Health.]

555. In the review of the last triennial report it was stated that nearly 32 lakhs of rupees had been spent on buildings and repairs to the Calcutta hospitals during the six previous years and a warning was given that the abnormally heavy drain on Provincial resources could not continue. In the period under report minor improvements were made in most of the hospitals ; a surgical ward was built at the Sambhu Nath Pandit Hospital from the donations given by Babu Dhanpat Singh Nawlakha (Rs. 25,000) and Babu Behari Lal Mitter (Rs. 10,000) augmented by grants from the Minto Fancy Fête Fund and Government ; a children's ward at the Eden Hospital from funds provided by the executors of the late Srimati Nistarini Dasi ; an out-door dispensary (from the Kanai Lall Seal bequest) and the King Edward Operation-room (from the King Edward Memorial Fund) at the Howrah Hospital. Government have provided 5 lakhs towards the cost of the Tropical School of Medicine and have undertaken the acquisition of a site for a new Eye Hospital at a cost of over 3 lakhs. The maintenance charges of Calcutta hospitals grow steadily year by year and amounted to Rs. 13,21,554 in 1913. The income of class I (State) hospitals in 1913 was Rs. 11,07,950, of which 71·14 per cent. consisted of Government grants. The Government grants to classes III and IV amounted to 29·68 per cent. of their total income. Subscriptions and donations from Indians amounted to 1·13 per cent. of the total income and those from Europeans to 1·47. **General.**

556. The average yearly number of in-patients treated at the Calcutta hospitals was 31,015, against an average of 27,970 in the previous triennium ; the increase was spread over the whole period and shared in by nearly all the hospitals. The number of beds has increased by 175, owing chiefly to the opening of the Prince of Wales's Hospital, surgical wards at the Sambhu **Number of patients.**

Nath Pandit and Dufferin Hospitals and a children's ward at the Eden Hospital. A very satisfactory feature of the period was the continuous decline in the death-rate, the figures being 12·16, 11·32 and 10·95 per mille in 1911, 1912 and 1913, respectively. Great attention has been paid to nursing; the staff has been increased all round, and though a still further increase is desirable this is a question not only of expense but also of accommodation. The Calcutta Nursing Association provides nurses for the Presidency General, Medical College and connected hospitals, including the Eden, Prince of Wales's, Ezra, Eye, Isolation and Indian Paying Patients' hospitals; the Government grant to this Association last year was Rs. 75,000 on a basis of treble the subscriptions received from other sources with a maximum of Rs. 75,000. The number of out-patients continued to rise in the same way as that of in-patients and the total in 1913 was 322,652 against 318,016 in 1910. The increase was largest in the Medical College Hospital and was substantial in the Sambhu Nath Pandit Hospital, the popularity of which was greatly enhanced by the services of the Calcutta Ambulance Association.

CHARITABLE DISPENSARIES OUTSIDE CALCUTTA.

Number of Dispensaries.

557. At the beginning of 1911 there were 591 dispensaries in the area contained in the present Province of Bengal; at the end of the triennium the number was 619, of which 23 were State Public, 42 State Special, 93 Municipal, 205 District Board, 7 Local Fund, 74 Private aided, 132 Private non-aided and 43 Railway dispensaries. The increase is satisfactory, but it is very slow, and the average area served by each dispensary is still far too large to admit of medical attendance being available to the bulk of residents in the *mufassal*.

Number of Patients.

558. The number of indoor-patients steadily rose from 49,428 in 1911 to 58,284 in 1913, and the number of beds available rose from 3,509 to 3,753. At present there are nurses only in the Victoria Hospital, Darjeeling, the Berhampore Hospital, Imambara Hospital at Hooghly, the Burdwan Fraser Hospital and the Chittagong General Hospital; in other places the nursing is still left almost entirely to the relatives of patients. Trained nursing is perhaps the most crying medical want throughout the Province. Wherever started it has been an unqualified success and has increased the popularity of the hospital. There are, however, many difficulties in the way of extending the supply of trained nurses; the expense involved in meeting their pay and providing them with suitable quarters, the difficulty of obtaining the right stamp of nurses and training them, and perhaps not least the difficulty of arranging for their supervision outside the hospitals as well as inside. Training classes are to be opened at Darjeeling, Kalimpong and Dacca and at the Sambhu Nath Pandit Hospital, Calcutta; every effort has been made to attract a suitable class. Those who qualify will receive certificates, and an association has been formed which will look after the certificated nurses and endeavour to provide for their welfare when they join *mufassal* hospitals. It is hoped that the system of nursing will gradually extend; but as it is essential that the nurses should be properly qualified it is impossible to supply them in large numbers at once.

The number of out-patients treated rose from 4,725,609 in 1911 to 5,125,561 in 1913 and medical relief, indoor and outdoor, was afforded to 11·91 per cent. of the population against 9·5 in 1910. The expenditure on classes I, III and IV institutions rose to Rs. 9,92,962 in 1913, and the income to Rs. 10,89,380, of which Government contributions amounted to 20·97 per cent. in comparison with 15·5 per cent. in 1910; subscriptions did not show an equal advance and, while the grants from District Boards increased, those from Municipalities showed a considerable decline.

Leper Asylums.

559. The Leper Asylum at Asansol having been amalgamated with that at Raniganj the number of leper asylums now in the Presidency is only three. During the year under review 871 lepers were treated, as compared with 916 in 1912 and 719 in 1911. The total expenditure on the asylums amounted to Rs. 71,879, of which Government contributed Rs. 44,770, missionary funds meeting the balance.

Eden Sanitarium, Darjeeling.

[Report on the Eden Sanitarium and Hospital for the year 1913.]

560. The total number of admissions during the year 1913 was 672 against 675 in the preceding year. The numbers of persons admitted to the several classes, *viz.*, First, Intermediate, Second and Third classes, were 79, 125, 291 and 177, respectively, as compared with 85, 124, 288 and 178 in 1912. The number of patients treated was 499, or 7 fewer than in the previous year. **Admission.**

561. The receipts from patients fell from Rs. 43,896 in 1912 to Rs. 38,566 in 1913, and the deficit which in the previous year amounted to Rs. 2,587 rose to Rs. 7,143 during the year under report. To improve the financial condition of the institution, Government sanctioned with effect from the 1st April 1914, the proposal made by the Managing Committee to raise by annas eight a day per head the rates of fees for the patients of all classes seeking admission to the sanitarium. An annual contribution of Rs. 1,500 from Provincial revenues has also been sanctioned to the institution with effect from the year 1914-15 on condition that four beds should continue to be maintained for the use of the patients from the Medical College and Presidency General Hospitals, and that when the beds are not occupied by such patients it will be open to Government to recommend other free-patients. A lump grant of Rs. 10,000 from Provincial revenues was sanctioned for the replacement of the shingled roof by corrugated-iron; and an additional grant of Rs. 1,120 was made for remodelling the drains round the kitchen. **Finance.**

562. Twenty-two patients were treated in the "free beds" during the year as against 17 in 1912 and the total cost on all "free beds" amounted to Rs. 1,417, as compared with Rs. 1,488 during the preceding year. **Free beds.**

Lunatic Asylums.

[Annual Returns of the Lunatic Asylums in Bengal for the year 1913. Statistics of British India, Part V—Area, Population and Public Health.]

563. The number of admissions (including re-admissions) fell from 265 to 213. The decrease was shared by all the three lunatic asylums, more than half of it occurring on the criminal side. It is ascribed mainly to greater discrimination on the part of the Executive authorities in dealing with the cases that came before them and a freer exercise of their discretion in handing over harmless lunatics to their friends and relatives instead of sending them to asylums, but partly also to the fact that the Government of Bihar and Orissa and the Assam Administration have discontinued sending their lunatics to the asylums in this Province. The falling-off in the admissions, however, had no effect in arresting the upward tendency of the daily average strength which rose from 1,063·43 to 1,084·51 in the year under report. This was due to fewer discharges, and to the larger number of patients remaining over from the previous year (*viz.* 1,064 against 1,044 of 1912). The total accommodation available in the three lunatic asylums during the year was 1,094, as compared with 1,044 in 1912. The increase occurred in the Bhowanipur and Dacca Lunatic Asylums, where 10 and 40 additional cells, respectively, were provided. Notwithstanding this increase of capacity there was overcrowding to a certain extent in the Berhampore and Dacca Lunatic Asylums. **Population and Admission.**

564. The general health of the Indian lunatics was not as satisfactory as it had been in the previous years, the daily average sick being 106·42 as compared with 82·42 in 1912. The increased prevalence of malarial fever in the Berhampore Lunatic Asylum was chiefly responsible for this rise in the average. The Dacca Asylum was free from malarial fever, but 8 cases of cholera occurred there, 7 ending fatally. There were 87 cases of phthisis under treatment (*viz.*, 41 in the Berhampore and 46 in the Dacca Asylums). All these cases were isolated and given special diet and kept as much as possible in the open air. Forty-one lunatics succumbed to phthisis during the year. In spite of increased sickness the mortality in the Berhampore Lunatic Asylum **Sickness.**

was lower than in 1912, the figures being 6·03 per cent. of daily average strength in 1913 against 7·13 in 1912. The death-rate at Dacca was, however, higher than in the previous year, being 13·75 per cent. against 10·15 per cent. in 1912.

Finance.

565. The total expenditure on lunatic asylums increased from Rs. 1,91,301 in 1912 to Rs. 1,94,451, the increase occurring chiefly under the heads "diet" and "establishment charges."

Sanitation.

[Reports of the Sanitary Board, Bengal, and the Sanitary Engineer, Bengal, for the year 1913.]

Sanitary works executed in towns and rural areas.

566. The total cost of sanitary works executed during 1912-13 by Municipalities, District Boards, Government and private individuals amounted to Rs. 13,14,368. Among the most important works were the following :—

(1) Construction of drains in Burdwan (Rs. 41,138), Howrah (Rs. 64,956), Darjeeling (Rs. 36,411) and Dacca (Rs. 6,173).
(2) Construction or improvement of waterworks in Hooghly-Chinsurah (Rs. 3,79,360), Jessore (Rs. 23,660), Khulna (Rs. 19,000), Narayanganj (Rs. 21,089), Barisal (Rs. 43,995), Pirojpur (Rs. 10,941), Chandpur old market (Rs. 27,583), Kurseong (Rs. 45,899) and Mymensingh (Rs. 5,846).
(3) Construction of an elevated reservoir for the supply of filtered water in the South Suburban Municipality (Rs. 12,775).
(4) Works in connection with the Darjeeling sewage scheme (Rs. 26,131).
(5) Improvements in the Darjeeling Bazar buildings (Rs. 60,403).
(6) Filling up of the Patastala cess-pool in Ward No. 2 of the Faridpur Municipality (Rs. 5,117).
(7) Construction of a charitable dispensary at Kapilmani in the Khulna district by Babus Benode Behari Sadhukhan and Kunja Behari Sadhukhan (Rs. 8,550).
(8) Construction of a Dharamsala at Tod Mondai, Old Malda town, by Babu Rajani Kanta Agarwala (Rs. 7,000).

The following instances of private liberality deserve notice :—

(1) Contribution of Rs. 10,000 by the Maharajadhiraj Bahadur of Burdwan towards the Burdwan Drainage scheme.
(2) Donations by Raja Rao Jogendra Narayan Rai Bahadur of Lalgola for the construction of a phthisis ward and other improvements in the Berhampore hospital (Rs. 17,315) and for the construction of a dispensary at Lalgola (Rs. 6,000).
(3) Contribution of Rs. 5,000 by Babu Monohar Mukherji of Uttarpara towards the drainage scheme of that town.

Sanitary improvements.

567. The expenditure by municipalities on "Water-supply" showed a large increase for which Hooghly-Chinsurah, Kurseong and Howrah were mainly responsible. The expenditure on "Conservancy" rose slightly in most municipalities, but the total fell by more than one lakh partly on account of the absence of any heavy expenditure such as had been incurred in the previous year on the Dacca conservancy tram and partly by the reduction in expenditure on the Darjeeling Sewage scheme. The Patna system of improving village sanitation was tried in Birbhum, Hooghly, Midnapore, Bakarganj and Rangpur, but, owing to the lack of local support, did not meet with much success. The septic-tank installations on the Hooghly continued to give satisfactory results.

Sanitary Board.

568. The Board was strengthened during the year by the inclusion of three non-official members. At the same time the Sanitary Engineer's department was removed from its control. Two meetings of the Board—one ordinary and one special—were held; at these, four water-supply and three drainage schemes were considered.

569. A separate report on the work of the Sanitary Engineer's department was submitted for the first time, as this department is no longer under the control of the Sanitary Board. An additional Assistant Sanitary Engineer was appointed during the year, and Government sanction was accorded to the appointment of two Sub-Engineers, four Surveyors, two Assistant Draftsmen and an Accountant Many sketch and detailed projects were drawn up and were in course of preparation during the year, while 10 water-supply and 11 drainage schemes were under construction. **Sanitary Engineer's Department.**

570. The necessary sanitary and medical precautions were taken at all big fairs and religious festivals during 1913. During the *Rash Jatra Melâ* at Santipur, at which more than 60,000 people assembled, 21 cases of cholera ended fatally. With the exception of four cases of cholera during the *Chait Sankranti Melâ* at Tarkeswar, and two cases of cholera at the *Rash Jatra* festival at Kantalpara in Naihati Municipality, no epidemic disease broke out at any other fairs. **Sanitary and Medical precautions at fairs and festivals.**

571. During the year three officers were appointed to the additional posts of Deputy Sanitary Commissioner for the Dacca, Rajshahi and Burdwan Circles. **Staff.**

Vaccination.

[Report on Vaccination in Bengal for the triennial years 1911-12 to 1913-14. Statistics of British India,—Part V—Area, Population and Public Health].

572. During 1913-14, 1,857,294 operations in all were performed. The average yearly number of operations for the triennium 1911-12 to 1913-14 was 1,929,425, of which 1,722,101 were primary and 207,324 re-vaccination cases; these figures are all slightly higher than those of the preceding triennium. There was a large decrease in the number of operations in Bakarganj in 1913-1914. This decrease is reported to be fictitious and due to the unreliability of the figures for previous years. The figures for Tippera and Dacca are also suspected to be unreliable. The percentage of infants vaccinated fell from 48 in 1912-13 to 46 in 1913-14. This low rate of infant protection is due to the backward condition of vaccination in East Bengal, where there is still great opposition to vaccination, especially of infants under one year of age. The system of anti-septic vaccination was introduced into East Bengal during 1913-14 with fairly satisfactory results; the six-puncture system of vaccination was adopted in all East Bengal districts. **Vaccination.**

573. The mortality from small-pox during 1913 showed a slight increase; that among infants, however, declined from 45·14 to 32·22 per mille. The highest mortality was as usual recorded in the East Bengal districts. **Small-pox.**

The Poisons Act.

[The Report on the Working of the Poisons Act, I of 1904, during the year 1913.]

574. The usual steps were taken to make the provisions of the Act generally known to the public who are now better acquainted with the rules. The total number of licenses issued in 1913 in the Province of Bengal including Calcutta was 142 under Section 2 and 236 under Section 4, as compared with 190 and 238 in 1912 and 208 and 293 in 1911, respectively. Outside Calcutta the total number of licenses issued under both the sections amounted to 111 against 114 in the previous year, the largest number of licenses current being in the Burdwan and Presidency Divisions as was the case in preceding years. No license was issued in 8 out of 16 districts in the three Divisions in East Bengal, and the number of licenses issued was very small in the remainder except in the districts of Dacca and Chittagong. The duty of inspection and supervision was carried out by the same class of officers as in the previous years. No serious irregularities were detected during the year under report. The total number of prosecutions instituted under the Act was 11, all of which ended in conviction. As in the previous year there was no prosecution in Calcutta. **Working of the Poisons Act.**

CHAPTER VII.—INSTRUCTION.

General System of Public Instruction.

See—

GENERAL ADMINISTRATION REPORT FOR 1911-12, PART II, PAGES 264—273.

Education.

[Report on Public Instruction in Bengal for 1913-14. Statistics of British India, Part VII—Educational.]

Administration.

575. In addition to the new post of Assistant Director of Public Instruction for Muhammadan Education sanctioned during the previous year a new Indian Educational Service post was created for a Professor of Mechanical Engineering at the Sibpur College. Posts for five Additional Assistant Inspectresses were added to the cadre of the Subordinate Educational Service. Five temporary posts for Assistant Inspectors of Muhammadan Education were also added to that service.

Primary Education.

576. The number of pupils receiving Primary education in all grades of schools decreased by 9,365, and the number of boys' Primary schools fell from 28,089 to 27,461. The number of Upper Primary schools decreased in both parts of the Province, but only in the Burdwan and Presidency Divisions was there any decline in the number of Lower Primary schools. Upper Primary schools are unpopular, as they provide Vernacular teaching only. The decrease in Lower Primary schools was due partly to the closing of inefficient institutions and the conversion of a certain number into *maktabs* but mainly to the disappearance of 828 schools in the Burdwan Division, presumably as a result of the floods in August. The total direct expenditure on Primary schools increased by Rs. 4,32,613; this increase must be attributed almost entirely to the allotments made from Imperial grants. During 1913-14 the amount of the Imperial subsidies available for Primary education was Rs. 13,65,000 for capital and Rs. 8,85,000 for recurring charges. These sums are being utilised for the construction of improved *guru*-training schools, for the construction and maintenance of Model Primary schools, for the establishment of schools in backward areas, for new buildings for aided schools, for school equipment and for increasing the pay of teachers. In Eastern Bengal grants were also made for the maintenance of *Korân* schools and of new girls' schools, and capitation grants were given for girls in mixed schools and for the teaching of Urdu.

Secondary Education.

577. Little improvement has been effected in Secondary education. The number of Secondary schools increased, but the efforts of the Education Department to encourage Middle Vernacular schools were unsuccessful. The faulty teaching of English is a defect generally admitted, but efficient teachers are few. Funds are not available for any general scheme of improvement though something has been done in the way of providing better buildings with the aid of the Imperial grants. In addition to the previously-sanctioned recurring grant of Rs. 1,50,000, a further recurring assignment of Rs. 2,26,000 was granted during the year. The former sum was spent in giving increased grants to aided schools, and the latter was earmarked for expenditure on non-recurring objects pending the formulation of a scheme for its distribution. A proposal was made during the year for the establishment of a residential school for Indian boys on the lines of an English Public school and a scheme is now under consideration for starting such a school at Hastings House on a temporary basis in the first instance.

Collegiate Education.

578. The number of Arts colleges remained unchanged, but three unaided colleges were converted into aided colleges. The number of students increased

by 1,850. The further expansion of the Presidency College was under consideration and the extension of its chemical laboratory was taken up towards the end of the year. Applications were made for the affiliation of this college in Botany up to the B.A. and B.Sc. standards, in Geology and Physiology up to the M.Sc. standard and in Philosophy up to the M.A. standard. The staff of the Dacca College was strengthened by the addition of a Professor of Philosophy in the Indian Educational Service and a Demonstrator of Physics in the Provincial Educational Service. The College was granted affiliation up to the B.A. honours standard in Philosophy. The Rajshahi College was affiliated in History up to the B.A. honours standard. A scheme for the expansion of this college is under consideration. The Hooghly College was granted affiliation in Physics and Chemistry up to the B.A. and B.Sc. standards and in Mathematics up to the B.Sc. honours standard. The construction of a hostel for the Muhammadan students of this college was completed and some relief was afforded by the removal of the Collegiate school from the College building. The total direct expenditure on Arts colleges increased by Rs. 54,272; the total expenditure on Government colleges was Rs. 7,49,000.

University Examinations.

579. Four thousand nine hundred and thirty-seven candidates out of 8,116 passed the Matriculation examination. The percentage of passes (60·8) shows a large decrease from the unusually high figure of the previous year (73·1). Two hundred and nineteen graduates obtained the M.A. and 47 the M.Sc. degree. In the B.A. examination 1,134 passed out of 2,171 candidates; in the B.Sc. examination, 218 out of 404; in the I.A. examination, 1,929 out of 4,223; and in the I.Sc. examination, 508 out of 836.

Education of Indian girls and women.

580. The number of female scholars in all classes of institutions increased from 222,749 to 230,729. The increase of Muhammadan girl students (6,013) was particularly noticeable. The Inspecting agency was strengthened by the creation of five Assistant Inspectressships and now consists of two Inspectresses and ten Assistant Inspectresses. The Secondary schools worked satisfactorily on the whole. Sixty-one candidates out of 75 passed the Matriculation examination as against 25 out of 48 in the previous year. The question of establishing good Middle schools for girls at District headquarters is under consideration; it is expected that these will be successful if mistresses can be appointed instead of *pandits*. The training of female teachers is principally carried on by Missionary agencies, but a scheme for a central Government Training College is now under consideration. A number of new Primary schools are being established, and the number of private schools receiving grants-in-aid is being increased. This has been made possible by the receipt of large Imperial allotments for the education of girls. The sum now available from this source for recurring expenditure is Rs. 2,44,000; a scheme for the expenditure of this amount has been drawn up and submitted to Government.

The Education of Europeans.

581. The number of European schools working under the Code of Regulations remained unchanged, *viz.*, 75. The total number of scholars increased by 367. The general standard of teaching remains low and the supply of good teachers is limited on account of the low remuneration offered. Efforts are being made to improve the prospects of teachers and something has been done in this direction by the distribution of staff-grants from the Imperial assignments. A Manual Training class for teachers was held at the Goethal's Memorial Orphanage, Kurseong; the teachers who attended it made good progress. The Imperial recurring grants amounting to Rs. 1,50,000 in all were distributed in the form of staff-grants, and building and equipment grants were made to 19 schools from the non-recurring Imperial allotment of Rs. 5 lakhs.

The Education of Indians.

582. The progress made by Muhammadans was very slight. The percentage of Muhammadan pupils was 43·4 per cent. of the total number of pupils in institutions of all kinds for the education of Indians, as compared with a percentage of 42·8 in the previous year. The percentage of Muhammadans in the upper stages of instruction remains low. The number of *Madrasahs* rose from 160 to 172. The *Madrasah* examinations were reduced to two, namely, the Lower standard and the Higher standard, while the rules for the Title examinations were modified on the lines of the Sanskrit Title examinations. The further reform of *Madrasahs* is at present engaging the

attention of Government. Progress was made in the introduction of Sir A. Earle's scheme of model *maktabs*, *mianji* training schools and inspecting *pandits* in the Burdwan and Presidency Divisions. The unification of the two systems at present in force in the Province is under consideration.

Training of teachers.

583. The results of the L.T. and B.T. degree examinations were highly satisfactory as the 56 candidates who appeared for the B.T. examination were all successful, while out of 29 candidates for the L.T. degree, 24 passed, but the results of the departmental examinations for Vernacular teachers were very disappointing; out of 467 examinees only 74 passed. The question of the training of teachers is still a serious one. The supply of passed men is altogether inadequate and it is open to question whether the training imparted is on sound lines. Some progress is recorded, however, in the improvement of the superior staff of the Secondary Training colleges, in the overhauling of the system of Vernacular training and in the promised provision of funds to improve the salaries of training instructors and of trained teachers.

Literature and the Press.

[Statistics of British India, Part VII—Educational.]

Bengal Library and working of Act XXV of 1867.

584. The number of publications registered during the year was 4,083, viz., 2,671 books and 1,412 issues of periodicals. The latter represented the issues of 203 separate publications, of which 49 were in English, and 118 in Bengali; the remainder were in other languages. In the preceding year there were 208 periodicals, of which 118 were in Bengali. Fifty-five periodicals ceased to appear during the period under review and forty-six new ones were started. There were 77 cases of evasion of the law of book registration, and 77 applications for the copy-right registration of books, during the year.

Literary publications.

585. The year was marked by great activity in the departments of biography, drama, fiction, history, poetry and religion. Among biographies the most interesting work was "The Life of Swami Vivekananda", the chief disciple of Rama Krishna, a Hindu saint of Bengal who flourished in the nineteenth century. The output of historical literature of the year was large and included a number of original works, the best of which was a history in English of the civilization of the world from remote antiquity to the present times, entitled "Epochs of Civilization" by Pramatha Nath Bose, B.Sc. (Lond.). Another noteworthy production was a complete history of India under the title of "Bharat Samrajver Loka Itihas" by Jogendra Chandra Chatarji. In the domain of fiction there were several works of diverse character; but with one exception they were of mediocre merit. The work which stood out most prominently was a domestic tale of great pathos, entitled "Annapurnar Mandir" by a Hindu Brahman widow named Nirupama Devi. A class of literature which is fast becoming popular is the volume of tales and short stories. There were many dramatic works, but none were of much merit. The Bengali stage has not yet recovered from the loss of Babus Girish Chandra Ghosh and Dwijendra Lal Roy who died in the course of the last two years. Many of the poems published during the year show that English poetry is exerting a great influence over the modern poetry of Bengal. Religious writings were as usual many and varied, and publications on caste questions are steadily increasing from year to year.

Indian Press—and working of Indian Press Act.

586. The total number of newspapers and periodicals, both English and Vernacular, published in Bengal during the year was 373, of which 256 were published in the town of Calcutta. Fifty-two newspapers and periodicals started publication and 51 old newspapers and periodicals ceased to exist during the year under review. Of these publications 211 were written in Bengali, 119 in English, 13 in Hindi and the rest in Urdu, Assamese or other languages. The most noticeable change in the tone of the Press was amongst the Muhammadan papers. First the Turkish and Persian troubles, then the alleged Bulgarian atrocities, and finally the Cawnpore Mosque case led the Muhammadan papers to indulge in intemperate language. In addition to the proceedings taken against certain offending Muhammadan newspapers,

several highly seditious leaflets were confiscated, and security was taken from 21 printing presses and from 9 newspapers. Warnings were issued in several instances, whilst in one case the security deposited by a newspaper was forfeited. Copies of 10 objectionable books were voluntarily surrendered during the period.

Topics discussed in the Press.

587. Turkish and Persian affairs continued to receive attention from the Muhammadan section of the Press, while the alleged Bulgarian atrocities and the Cawnpore Mosque case were widely discussed. Other subjects, in which considerable interest was shown by the Press, were the decentralisation of Police Courts in Calcutta, the Education proposals of Government, the operations of the Calcutta Improvement Trust, the divisions of districts in Bengal, the Bengal Sanitary Officers Bill, and the Medical Registration Bill. The one subject in which every newspaper was interested was that of rural sanitation, although there was a great difference of opinion as to the methods by which relief is to be sought.

Literary Societies.

See—

GENERAL ADMINISTRATION REPORT FOR 1911-12, PART II, PAGES 278-279.

Arts and Sciences.

School of Art, Calcutta.

588. The number of students on the rolls of the School of Art, Calcutta, on the 31st March 1914 was 262 against 273 in the previous year. Of these, 4 were Christians, 248 Hindus, 9 Muhammadans and 1 Buddhist. The lithography, wood-engraving, modelling and draftsman classes had 18, 7, 18 and 34 students, respectively. The works of some 9 or 10 students of the fine art department have been given a conspicuous place in exhibitions of oriental painting in Paris and London and have been favourably mentioned. The teachers' department fails to attract students apparently owing to the unsatisfactory prospects of teachers of drawing. During the year under review 48 passed students secured suitable employment on an initial pay averaging Rs. 36-8 per mensem. An advanced student has also been appointed on a substantial salary by the Education Department of the Punjab as a lecturer in Art. The total expenditure amounted to Rs. 41,898, of which Rs. 37,502 came from Provincial revenues. The attached hostel contained 32 boarders on the 31st March 1914.

Art Gallery.

589. The library attached to the Art Gallery was much improved and the wood-carving section was considerably enriched by a collection of South Indian wood-carving presented by His Excellency the Governor. A *muk-nal* (mouthpiece of a *hukkah*) of *akik* stone was presented by Mr. E. C. Bham of Rangoon; it is about 200 years old. Some interesting specimens of metal ware, textile fabrics and Indian paintings were also added to the gallery. The gallery was visited by His Excellency the Governor, the Earl of Ronaldsay, Sir Valentine Chirol and others. During the year under review the total expenditure, including purchases, was Rs. 9,562.

Other Schools of Art.

590. There are three other art schools in the Province, two of which are in Calcutta and one at Dacca. These schools had 104 pupils on their rolls on the 31st March 1914.

Music Schools.

591. The number of music schools increased from 4 to 5. They were all in Bankura. Two of them had 35 pupils, and received during the year under report pecuniary assistance to the extent of Rs. 276 from Provincial revenues and Rs. 156 from Municipal funds. The condition of these schools is not satisfactory.

Civil Engineering College, Sibpur.

592. In the engineering department of the Civil Engineering College, Sibpur, the total number of students was 103 as against 97 and 95 in the two preceding years. Thirty-two students were admitted during the year

under review. The total admissions to the apprentice department numbered 68. Of the 179 students attending this department, 144 were Hindus, 2 Muhammadans and 33 Christians. In the electrical engineering branch there were 27 students, of whom 15 were admitted to the recently-sanctioned special 3-year course. The new professor of mechanical engineering, Mr. C. A. King, arrived on the 29th March 1914. The session of the mining branch opened with 12 students, namely, 7 in the 3rd-year class and 5 in the 4th-year. At the Colliery Manager's Certificate examination 2 old students obtained first-class and 3, second-class certificates, all on first trial. In the workshops the value of the work turned out amounted to nearly Rs. 30,000 including Rs. 13,000 for furniture for the hostel and Rs. 2,850 for gun-racks for the Police Department. The industrial classes for training young artisans had an average attendance of 33, of whom about 20 were in the fitting and machine shop. Five artisans left during the year, and drew Rs. 1,005 standing to their credit on account of work done. The chemical department was temporarily in charge of the professor of tinctorial chemistry. The mathematical and physical departments have now been placed under a single head, and Mr. A. Macdonald, recently transferred from the Dacca College, was in charge of them. In the department of tinctorial chemistry there were five regular students, 2 in the 1st-year and 3 in the 2nd-year class. Three others joined as occasional students, one of whom was sent by the manager of the Muir Mills, Cawnpore. Three M.Sc. students also were working in the laboratory. Four students appeared for the college diploma examination in dyeing and all were successful. The 3-year period for which these classes were originally sanctioned expired in November 1913. An application for their continuance has been submitted to Government; meanwhile the classes are being maintained provisionally. The total expenditure on the college was 2·67 lakhs, of which 2·06 lakhs came from public revenues and the rest was met from fees and other sources. The general health of the inmates of the college during the year under report was good notwithstanding the increase in the numerical strength of the institution and the prevalence of malarial fever and cholera in the immediate neighbourhood.

Dacca School of Engineering.

593. On the 31st of March 1914 there were 226 students on the rolls of the Dacca School of Engineering against 269 on the corresponding date of the year before. Of these, 186 were in the apprentice department and 40 in the survey department. There were altogether 55 new admissions, viz., 19 to the 1st-year sub-overseer class, 21 to the 2nd-year class and 15 to the 3rd-year class. The 1st-year class of the survey department was abolished from the beginning of the session, and an assistant teacher of the survey class, whose services were not required in the school was transferred to the new Bengal Land Surveying School at Comilla which was opened in January 1914 under the management of the Director of Surveys. The electrical power-house attached to the school was likewise closed and the foreman in charge of it was also transferred. The new electrical department was started in July 1913, and 4 students began the overseer course in mechanical and electrical engineering. The total market value of the work turned out from the workshops was about Rs. 2,600, of which Rs. 1,530 was for outside work and the remainder for the school. The total cost of the up-keep of the school was Rs. 63,200, of which Rs. 51,395 came from Provincial revenues.

Mining instruction in the coal-fields.

594. During the year under review the Mining Educational Advisory Board controlled the three centres at Charanpur, Deshergarh and Raniganj besides the two centres at Jheria and Sijua, which are in the Province of Bihar and Orissa. Out of 83 students eligible for the sessional examination from five centres, only 40 actually appeared, of whom 17 passed (9 Europeans and 8 Indians). A further grant of Rs. 2,000 was allotted from the Imperial grant for the purchase of apparatus for the lectures.

Committee on Mining Education.

595. In October 1913, a committee was appointed by Government to advise on the scope and location of a school of mines to meet the requirements of the two Provinces of Bengal and Bihar and Orissa. The Committee was asked to draw up a scheme for its establishment and maintenance, and to consider how the existing system of evening classes might be developed and made more useful, and to discuss generally the whole problem of mining

education in the coalfields and the best method of supervising both the school and other forms of instruction. The Committee met under the presidency of Sir D. J. Macpherson, C.I.E., and its report is now before Government.

Pleaders' Survey Examination.

596. During the year under review there were 10 students in the short training class in survey for pleaders at Sibpur, 8 at Dacca and 11 at Bankipore. At the examination held in February 1914, 8 passed out of 38. The Examination Board decided to address Government, expressing dissatisfaction with the present scheme of training and suggesting that the work should be entrusted to some other agency.

Joint Technical Examination Board.

597. At the Overseer examination 63 candidates passed out of 109 (excluding absentees) or 57·8 per cent.; and at the Sub-Overseer examination 123 passed out of 194 or 63·4 per cent. In 1913 these percentages were respectively 74·3 and 56·1. The expenditure on the examinations for 1914 (excluding establishment charges) was more than met by the fee-receipts, which amounted to Rs. 8,220. All the figures in this paragraph include the statistics of candidates from Bihar and Orissa.

City and Guilds of London Institute Technological Examination.

598. The examinations of the City and Guilds of London Institute were held locally in April and May 1913 at two centres, viz., Serampore for textile subjects (48 candidates) and Calcutta for engineering subjects (22 candidates). Twenty-four candidates passed in textile subjects and 7 in engineering subjects.

Government Weaving Institute, Serampore, and its subordinate outlying Weaving Schools.

599. At the beginning of the session the Serampore Weaving Institution had 37 students in the higher classes and 55 in the artisan class. A large number of students now reside in the hostels attached to it, and it has been found necessary to rent a larger building for them. At the beginning of the year there were two outlying centres attached to the Serampore Institute, one at Bankura and the other at Cox's Bazar. These centres are doing useful work in imparting industrial education to the backward communities of the localities. The total annual cost to Govenment of the institute and these two outlying centres amounted during the year under review to about Rs. 32,300. One additional weaving school was started at Malda, and another will be opened at Pabna as soon as the buildings are ready. A new building for the Bankura school is under construction.

Government Commercial Institute, Calcutta.

600. The standard of admission into the Commercial Institute, Calcutta, was raised and a large number of matriculates joined the Institute Fifty-seven students were admitted to the day classes, 37 in the first-year and 20 in the second-year class. In the evening classes there were 123 pupils, but only 20 of them took up advanced subjects. Out of 12 candidates for the final examination in the day course only 4 were successful. The question of altering the conditions of admission to the examination is under consideration. A proposal to award some scholarships to the pupils of the Institute is also being considered. The net cost of the Institute to Government for the year was about Rs. 19,000.

Proposed Technological Institute for Calcutta.

601. Criticisms were invited by Government on the scheme for a Technological Institute for Calcutta and these were under consideration at the close of the year. The proposals for improving industrial education in Eastern Bengal, formulated at the Dacca Conference of 1909, have been modified to suit the altered conditions, and are being considered by Government along with the Calcutta scheme.

"B" Classes.

602. From Bengal schools 17 candidates passed the "B" classes final examinations out of 31 sent up. The figures for the previous year were 37 and 56, respectively.

CHAPTER VIII.—ARCHÆOLOGY.

Archæology.

[Annual report of the Archæological Survey of India, Eastern Circle, for 1913-14.]

Establishment.

603. The headquarters of the Archæological Superintendent, Eastern Circle, were transferred to Calcutta in May 1913 partly as a result of the redistribution of provincial territories and partly to enable the Superintendent to take up the duties of officer in charge of the Archæological Section of the Indian Museum.

The office of the Assistant Superintendent remained in Bankipur.

Monuments and Antiquities.

604. The total amount spent on conservation work in Bengal during the year under review was Rs. 16,772. Special repairs to the mosque at Astogram in the Mymensingh district were completed as was also the conservation of a ruined brick mosque at Kharaul in the Murshidabad district. The mosque of Shah Safiuddin in Pandua (Hooghly) was under repair and the conservation work of the Sareshwar temple near Vishnupur (Bankura) was commenced.

Thirteen notifications were published declaring monuments of interest to be protected monuments under the Ancient Monuments Preservation Act (VII of 1904). In one case an agreement under section 5 of the Act (VII of 1904) was made between the Secretary of State and the owners of the monuments.

Working of the Indian Treasure Trove Act, VI of 1878.

605. Finds of coins were reported from the districts of Nadia, Murshida bad, Mymensingh and Malda, and in each case action was taken under the Treasure Trove Act (VI of 1878). The coins were, however, of comparatively recent date and were of no numismatic value.

LIBRARY OF THE BOMBAY BRANCH OF THE ROYAL ASIATIC SOCIETY

CHAPTER IX.—MISCELLANEOUS.

Ecclesiastical Jurisdiction.

See—

GENERAL ADMINISTRATION REPORT FOR THE YEAR 1911-1912, PART II, PAGE 262.

Ecclesiastical.

Establishment.

606. The ecclesiastical establishment in Bengal during the year, paid entirely or in part by Government, consisted of the Lord Bishop of Calcutta, the Archdeacon of Calcutta, the Domestic Chaplain to the Bishop, the Registrar of the Diocese, 13 Chaplains of the Church of England, the Senior and Junior Chaplains of the Church of Scotland, 9 clergymen of the Additional Clergy or other Societies, the Most Reverend Archbishop Dr. Brice Meüleman, S.J., and 1 priest of the Roman Catholic Church.

Chemical Examiner's Department.

[Report of the Chemical Examiner for the year 1913, Statistics of British India, Part VI—Administrative and Judicial.]

Creation of the post of Imperial Serologist.

607. Lieutenant-Colonel W. D. Sutherland, I.M.S., who had been deputed by the Government of India in 1912 for one year to open training classes in Serology at the Medical College, Calcutta, held regular classes which were attended by medical officers from the different Provinces in India as well as by Captain R. B. Lloyd, I.M.S., the probationer attached to the Chemical Examiner's Department, Bengal. The post of Imperial Serologist for India, to which Lieutenant-Colonel W. D. Sutherland has been appointed, has been sanctioned by the Secretary of State for India for a period of two years as an experimental measure, with effect from the 1st March 1914. The services of Lieutenant-Colonel Sutherland were also utilised during the year under report in the examination of suspected bloodstains in connection with criminal cases; and in order to give his reports the protection of law and to exempt him from personal attendance in Courts, he has been appointed a Chemical Examiner to Government for the purpose of Section 510 of the Criminal Procedure Code. The staff of the Chemical Examiner's Department was reduced by one Assistant Surgeon, one clerk and two peons as the recently-opened Customs laboratory was made permanent during the year.

Total of Cases.

608. In spite of the fact that the bulk of the analytical work of the Customs Department is now done in their own laboratory, the total number of analyses performed in the general anayltical department rose from 2,459 in 1912 to 5,307 in 1913. This increase was largely due to the number (viz., 4,875) of cocaine references by the Excise Department and the Presidency Magistrate, Calcutta.

Medico-legal cases.

609. In the Medico-legal Department 1,965 cases and 3,313 articles were examined during the year against 2,008 cases and 3,767 articles in the previous year. This does not include 288 specimens of suspected bloodstains which were made over to Lieutenant-Colonel Sutherland, I.M.S., for examination during 1913. In connection with human poisoning cases the viscera of 824 persons were examined against 773 in 1912. As usual the poison

most frequently detected was opium. There was an increase of work in connection with animal poisoning cases ; in these the poison most commonly used was arsenic.

Veterinary Department.

[Report of the Veterinary College and of the Civil Veterinary Department, Bengal, for the year 1913-14.]

Bengal Veterinary College.

610. At the beginning of the session 114 students were on the rolls of the Bengal Veterinary College, but at its close the actual number was 91, of whom 24 came from Bengal, 16 from Bihar, 7 from Orissa, 9 from Assam, 7 from Madras and the rest from other Provinces. All these 91 students were allowed to appear at the examination and 67 passed. Thirty-four students appeared at the final examination and the results were satisfactory, the percentage of passes being 73·53.

A proposal to strengthen the staff of the College by the addition of a European officer to enable it to keep abreast of modern developments in veterinary science has been submitted to the Government of India.

College Hospital.

611. During the year 2,697 cases were treated and 1,726 operations were performed at the college hospital. Only 270 animals were sent for treatment to the hospital in connection with cases under the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act although the total number of cases under that Act was 11,772.

Glanders and Farcy Act.

612. The administration of the Glanders and Farcy Act was conducted smoothly during the year. In Calcutta and its neighbourhood about 4,000 stables were inspected in the area under the Act and the disease was detected in nine stables. In the *mufassal* there were 194 deaths from this disease, of which 158 occurred in the Sodepore *Pinjrapole*. The maximum amount of compensation payable for each animal destroyed under the Glanders and Farcy Act was Rs. 100 in the districts in East Bengal and Rs. 50 in West Bengal. The amount has now been fixed by Government at Rs. 100 for the whole Province, and it is hoped that the increased rates of compensation will induce owners of animals to report cases promptly and so assist in the stamping out of the disease. The amount paid as compensation during the year was Rs. 1,329, as compared with Rs. 282 in the preceding year.

Raymond Research Laboratory.

613. The Raymond Research Laboratory continued to do useful work in the diagnosis of contagious and obscure diseases. The popularity of the institution is increasing and cases were sent for examination not only by the Provincial Veterinary Departments, but also by local private practitioners, both European and Indian, and by the general public. One Veterinary Assistant from the Central Provinces and another from Travancore attended the Post-graduate Course at the Laboratory.

Civil Veterinary Department.

614. The reported deaths of equines and bovines from contagious disease numbered 279 and 12,847 against 373 and 7,637, respectively, in the preceding year. The increase in the latter case was attributed partly to the fact that rinderpest was more prevalent during the year than in the preceding year and partly to the better reporting of outbreaks. Under the arrangements sanctioned by Government during the year such outbreaks will be reported not only by the police, but also by the touring officers of the various Departments of Government and by the presidents and collecting members of village *panchayats* who have been supplied with postcard forms for the purpose.

Dispensaries.

615. No new dispensary was opened during the year. The total number of patients treated at the existing dispensaries was 21,503 as against 22,106 in the preceding year, a little above one-fourth being in-patients.

Breed of Cattle.

616. As in the previous year little progress was made in improving the breed of cattle in this Province owing to the indifference displayed by the cattle-owners and the cultivators generally to the efforts made in that direction. The cattle farm established at Rangpur will, it is hoped, yield results which will convince the cultivators that it will pay them to devote attention to the improvement and proper care of their cattle

Strength of the staff.

617. There were 6 Inspectors and 73 Veterinary Assistants under the control of the Superintendent during the year.

Zoological Garden, Calcutta.

[Annual Report of the Honorary Committee for the year 1913-14.]

Finance and statistics.

618. The financial condition of the Garden was even better than in the previous year. The receipts from visitors amounted to Rs. 53,913-11, showing an increase of Rs. 3,414-11. The total receipts amounted to Rs. 1,11,818-0-8 and the total expenditure to Rs. 90,026-7-7, leaving a closing balance of Rs. 21,791-9-1. The visitors numbered 704 982, or 48,580 more than in the previous year.

The numbers of mammals, birds and reptiles in the Garden at the close of the year were 378, 1,659 and 223 against 341, 1,188 and 150. The Garden was, as usual, free to the public one day in each month and 64,994 persons availed themselves of the concession.

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